

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: Zoommeer

4. Geographical coordinates: 51°30'N - 04°12'E

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) NAP -10 – -1 m

6. Area: (in hectares) 1,175

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

A stagnant freshwater lake west and east of the Schelde-Rhine connection (shipping lane) which came into being by building of the Oesterdam at the eastern end of the Oosterschelde (Ramsar site) in 1986. In the southeast it is adjacent to the lake Markiezaat (Ramsar site).

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: O4

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

Species	Biogeographical population	1% Biogeogr. Population	% at site
<i>Anas strepera</i>	NW-Europe	300	1,0%
<i>Anas clypeata</i>	NW/ Central-Europe	400	1,3%
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	W-Europe/ W. MidZee	225bp	1,1%

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

Provinces of Noord-Brabant and Zeeland, west of Bergen op Zoom.

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)

Lake Zoommeer forms a hydrological unit with Ramsar site Lake Volkerakmeer. With the building of the Oesterdam in 1986 and the Philipsdam in 1987 the Zoommeer became out of reach of tidal variations. Water from the Hollands Diep, by that time already a freshwater lake, was let in. As in other sites that became a stagnant water level erosion of the banks became a problem, protection measures have been taken on a large scale. Since 1996 the water level variations are more natural. The level fluctuates with rain, river discharges and evaporation (summer NAP - 0,10 m, winter NAP + 0,15 m). Water is let in from the Hollands Diep but is also coming from some small rivers. The water that is let in is of bad quality, and pollution and eutrofication threaten the site. Surplus water is sluiced into the Westerschelde via the Schelde-Rhine canal.

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

None.

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

Permanent freshwater lakes 82%, Wet grassland 18%.

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

Stoneworth species on the Red List: *Chara contraria*.

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: *Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*; *River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*; *Bullhead *Cottus gobio*; Orfe *Leuciscus idus*;

Birds (breeding): *Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*, *Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*; (non-breeding): Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, *Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, *Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*, Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Eurasian Wigeon *Anas [Mareca] penelope*, Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Common Teal *Anas crecca*, Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*, Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*, Common Coot *Fulica atra*, Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, *Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*.

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

See 21. Current land use.

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

The site is partly owned by Staatsbosbeheer (187 ha); the remainder is state ownership (Dienst der Domeinen, Ministerie van Financiën)..

Surrounding area: the water (Markiezaat and Oosterschelde) is state owned, on land several private owners.

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

Site: Dairy farming 5%, Boating 70%, Tourism and leisure 10%, Commercial fisheries 70%, Shipping traffic 20%, Conservation and research 24%, Water management 100%.

Surroundings/ catchment: –

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): Agricultural intensification/expansion (B - intensive grazing); Pollution (not Industrial discharge) (A - eutrophication).

Around the site: –

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)
Nature Conservation Act (1989, 218 ha); Special Protection Area (Birds Directive 79/409/EEC, 2000, 1175 ha); Wetland of International Importance (2/4/2000, 1175 ha). Management covered by the “general management plan for national waters” (Beheersplan Rijkswateren 1996-2000) and a more specific management plan for the land areas managed by the National Forestry Service (SBB).

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

Management plan for the Volkerak-Zoommeer hydrological entity in preparation.

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

Most of the topics studied at in the Wadden Sea (ecology of seals, birds (numbers, distribution, foraging, breeding), fish, invertebrates, seagrass, sediment) are also studied and monitored in the Delta by the Institute for Coast and Sea (RIKZ, Middelburg, www.rikz.nl) and Center for Marine and Estuarine Ecology (NIOO/CEMO, www.nioo.nl) in Yerseke. The long term studies also include the effects on the ecosystem of the closure of the Oosterschelde with a half-open dam and distribution and dynamics of Microcystis in lake Volkerak-Zoommeer.

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

Hide.

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.

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

Territorial: Municipalities of Tholen, Bergen op Zoom; Functional jurisdiction (conservation purposes): Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij.

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

Rijkswaterstaat (Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat), Directie Zeeland, PO Box 5014, 4330 KA Middelburg, the Netherlands, +31 118 672200

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

- Muller M. 1996. Evaluatie van de aangelegde eilanden in het Volkerak-Zoommeer; Ontwikkeling & voorstel tot integraal beheer. Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat.
- 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.
- Wanningsen, H., Boute, M.G.. 1997. Een meer in ontwikkeling; evaluatie van het beheer en de ontwikkeling van het Volkerak-Zoommeer over de periode 1987-1995. Nota Rijkswaterstaat Directie Zeeland, AX 1015.96
- Tosserams M., Lammens E.H.R.R., Platteeuw M. 2000. Het Volkerak-Zoommeer. De ecologische ontwikkeling van een afgesloten zeearm. RIKZ rapport 2000.024. Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat/RIZA, Lelystad

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