

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:

18-02-2003

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD	MM	YY

Designation date

--	--	--	--	--	--

Site Reference Number

2. Country:

the Netherlands

3. Name of wetland: Oostelijke Vechtplassen

4. Geographical coordinates: 52°13'N - 05°05'E

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) NAP -5 – 0 m

6. Area: (in hectares) 4,500

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

An extensive area of shallow lakes and canals (arosen from peat digging), fenland, reedbeds, swampy woodland, and wet meadows. It is located west of the city of Hilversum and east of the river Vecht.

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: UOXp4

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: 2

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 1 has been applied because the site covers partly forested lowland peatland sites and shallow freshwater lakes created by extensive peat digging.

Criterion 2: The site has a high diversity of interesting plants and animal species including:

- Five species of stoneworths Characea of the national red list including: *Nitella translucens*; *Nitellopsis obtusa* and *Nitella capillaris*;
- four species of mushroom of the national red list including: *Hygrocybe helobia*; *Armillaria ectypa* and *Cortinarius betulinus*;
- eight wetland mosses of the national red list including: *Campylium elodes*; *Rhizomnium pseudopunctatum*; *Scorpidium scorpioides* and *Sphagnum contortum*;
- wetland plant species of the national red list including: Fen Orchid *Liparis loeselii*; Early Marsh-Orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnata* and Bog Orchid *Hammarbia paludosa*;
- six species of insects threatened at the national or European level including the dragonflies *Leucorrhinia pectoralis*; *Aeshna viridis*; *Libellula fulva* and the butterfly *Boloria selene*;
- thirteen species of freshwater molluscs of the national red list including: *Myxas glutinosa*; *Pisidium pseudosphaerium*; *Pisidium hibernicum*; *Pisidium pulchellum* and *Gyraulus riparius*;
- five freshwater fishes on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive: Bitterling *Rhodeus sericeus amarus*; Weatherfish *Misgurnus fossilis*; Spined Loach *Cobitis taenia*; Bullhead *Cottus gobio* and Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus*;
- six species of breeding birds included on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive including: Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* and Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*;
- two species of mammal included on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive: Pond bat *Myotis dasycneme* and Root vole *Microtus oeconomus arenicola*.

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)
Provinces of Utrecht and Noord-Holland, west of Hilversum.

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 current landscape has been formed by reclamations. The site is being influenced by seepage water, though part of the seepage is being drained by the lower situated reclamations. Water shortage occurs in summer in part of the site. Because this shortage can not be filled up with seepage, polluted water from the river Vecht is let in.

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

This area of lakes and marshes does not have a major hydrological function. The water system is more or less isolated from the surrounding waters to improve the water quality. To keep the water level stable (different parts of the area have a target level depending on the land use) water has to be regularly supplemented from the river Vecht or the canal “s Gravelandse Vaart” (main sources of water are seepage and precipitation). In the southern part of the area (Loosdrechtse Plassen) the water from river Vecht is defosphatised for the sake of water quality.

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

Permanent freshwater lakes 40%, Permanent freshwater marshes 25%, Freshwater swamp forest 30%, Wet grassland 5%.

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

Plant communities of European interest: *Nitellopsidetum obtusae*; *Charetum hispidae*; *Charetum asperae*; *Lemno-Nitelletum capillaris*; *Najadetum marinae*; *Potametum lucentis*; *Stratiotetum*; *Utricularietum vulgaris*; *Groenlandietum*; *Scirpetum fluitantis*; *Cicuto-Caricetum pseudocyperis*; *Cladietum marisci*; *Pallavicinio-Sphagnetum*; *Scorpidio-Caricetum diandrae*; *Sphagno palustris-Ericetum*; *Lychnido-Hypericetum tetrapteri*; *Carici elongatae alnetum*; *Thelypterido-Alnetum*; *Betuletum pubescentis*;

Stoneworth species on the Red List: *Nitella translucens*; *Tolypella prolifera*; *Chara contraria*; *Nitellopsis obtusa*; *Nitella capillaris*;

Mushroom species on the Red List: *Tricholoma fulvum*; *Hygrocybe helobia*; *Armillaria ectypa*; *Cortinarius betulinus*;

Moss species on the Red List: *Calliergon giganteum*; *Campyllum elodes*; *Campyllum polygamum*; *Fissidens adianthoides*; *Rhizomnium pseudopunctatum*; *Scorpidium scorpioides*; *Sphagnum contortum*; *Ricciocarpos natans*; Vascular plant species on the Red List: Fen Orchid *Liparis loeselii*; Marsh Lousewort *Pedicularis palustris*; Marsh Helleborine *Epipactis palustris*; Early Marsh-Orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnata*; Bog Orchid *Hammarbia paludosa*.

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.

Dragonflies: **Leucorrhinia pectoralis*; *Brachytron pratense*; *Aeshna isosceles*; *Aeshna viridis*; *Libellula fulva*; Butterflies: *Boloria selene*;

Freshwater molluscs: *Theodoxus fluviatilis*; *Viviparus viviparus*; *Marstoniopsis scholtzii*; *Myxas glutinosa*; *Anisus vorticulus*; *Anodonta cygnea*; *Pisidium pseudosphaerium*; *Pisidium amnicum*; *Pisidium hibernicum*; *Pisidium pulchellum*; *Segmentina nitida*; *Gyraulus riparius*; *Oxyloma sarsii*;

Freshwater fishes: *Bitterling *Rhodeus sericeus amarus*; *Weatherfish *Misgurnus fossilis*; *Spined Loach *Cobitis taenia*; *Bullhead *Cottus gobio*; Orfe *Leuciscus idus*; *Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus*;

Birds: (breeding): *Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, *Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*, *Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*, *Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*, *Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*, Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*, Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*, Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*; (non-breeding): White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*, Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, Eurasian Wigeon *Anas [Mareca] penelope*, Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*, *Smew *Mergus albellus*, Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*;

Mammals: *Pond bat *Myotis dasycneme*; *Root vole *Microtus oeconomus arenicola*.

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 Natuurmonumenten (1908 ha) and Staatsbosbeheer (568 ha); the remainder is in private ownership.

Surrounding area: several private owners.

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

Site: Boating 60%, Tourism and leisure 5%, Residential (conurbation) 5%, Motorways and major roads 2%, Extractive operations 1%, Farming 5%, Commercial fisheries 60%, Conservation and research 27%, Water management 100%, Reed cutting 1%.

Surroundings/ catchment: agriculture.

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 (B – agricultural land use and drinking water extraction); Recreation/ tourism (B - o.a. pleasure navigation); Selective logging/ cutting (B - reed cutting); Pollution (not Industrial discharge) (A). Turbidity (caused by high silt content of the water) of only 30 cm is the main reason that submerged water vegetation is entirely lacking now. Several measures are planned to improve the water quality. Creation of three pits (120 ha), improvement of water management and further

dephosphatation.

Around the site: Atmospheric deposition of nutrients from bio-industry, Nutrient pollution caused by water from surrounding farmland.

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 (1991, 80 ha); Nature Conservation Act (1993, 120 ha); Special Protection Area (Birds Directive 79/409/EEC, 2000, 4500 ha); Wetland of International Importance (2000, 4500 ha). Natuurmonumenten has compiled a management plan (which is updated on a regular basis) that focusses on habitats and species conservation.

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

None

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

The Department of Botanical Ecology and Population Biology, Utrecht University (www.biol.uu.nl) is an important center of wetland research on the ecosystem level and also is involved in studies of natural bogs and wetland and bog restoration ecology. The NIOO (www.nioo.nl) studies bacterial community structure in Microcystis and Oscillatoria lakes, Stabilisation of planktonic cyanobacteria-cyanophage relationship by heterotrophic bacteria and nanoflagellates. Also regular bird counts.

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

Excursions, hide, information booklet.

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.)

Municipalities Breukelen, Loenen, Loosdrecht, Maarssen, Maartensdijk, 's-Graveland and Nederhorst den Berg. 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)

Natuurmonumenten, PO Box 9955, 1243 's Graveland, the Netherlands, +31 35 6559933

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

- van Donk E., et al., 1990. First attempt to apply whole-lake food-web manipulation on a large scale in The Netherlands. *Hydrobiologia* 200/201: 291-301.
 - van der Hammen H., van Ee G. & Scheffer-Ligtermoet Y. 2001. Evaluatie van maatregelen in de Ankeveense en Kortenhoefse plassen en het Hol. *Ontwikkelingen van de fysisch-chemische samenstelling, diatomeeën, flora en vegetatie, macrofauna in de periode 1988-1997.*
 - van Leerdam & Vermeer 1992. *Natuur uit het moeras! Interfacultaire Vakgroep Milieukunde Rijksuniversiteit, Leiden*
 - van Liere, L. & Gulati R.D. 1991. Restoration and recovery of shallow eutrophic lake ecosystems in the Netherlands. *Hydrobiologia*.
 - Osieck E.R. & Borggreve C.A. 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.
 - Vereniging Natuurmonumenten 1998. *Om kijken naar Laagveen. Resultaten van beheer & wensen voor de toekomst van de laagvenen van Natuurmonumenten.* Vereniging Natuurmonumenten, 's Graveland.
-