



Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 1 November 2022

Update version, previously published on : 15 December 2014

Netherlands

Oostvaardersplassen



Designation date	2 June 1989
Site number	427
Coordinates	52°26'47"N 05°21'04"E
Area	5 477,00 ha

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

The Oostvaardersplassen (5477 ha) originated in what used to be the deepest and wettest part of the Southern Flevoland polder. The site was preserved when the developing natural values prompted the change from the foreseen industrial area to nature reserve. Subsidence of the surroundings of the polder necessitated wetting of the area. More than half of the area was surrounded by a quay in 1976, which makes separate water level management possible. After changes in water levels and division into a western and an eastern part, the water can now flow freely again when the water level is high. The water level is determined by natural variations in precipitation and evaporation. In the second half of the 1990s, the eastern part of the outer quay area was rehydrated and extensive pool complexes were created in both the west and the east, connecting to the inner quay area.

For birds the Oostvaardersplassen is the most important clay marsh in the Netherlands. It is a very important breeding area for birds of extensive reed marshes. A large part of the population of species like Great Cormorant, Eurasian Bittern, Great Egret, Little Egret and Savi's Warbler breed here. For some species the large scale of the site resulted in an important source, from which the rest of the Netherlands (Bleu Throat, Great Egret) or Western Europe (Bearded Tit) could be colonized. Rare species occurring here are the Hen Harrier, for which this is the only breeding site besides the Wadden islands, and since 2006 the White-tailed or Sea Eagle.

The site is also very important for migratory birds. Many species of birds of prey, herons, swans, ducks and geese come here to forage and rest. Tens of thousands of Greylag Geese use the Oostvaardersplassen as moulting area.

Large herbivores like Heck cattle, Konik horses and Red deer were introduced at the site. Together with moulting and wintering geese they keep large parts of the site open, with exception of some scattered trees. Most of the site is not open for visitors.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

Institution/agency	Wageningen Environmental Research
Postal address	PO Box 47 6700 AA Wageningen The Netherlands

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Institution/agency	Ministry of Agriculture Nature and Food Quality
Postal address	Bezuidenhoutseweg 73 P.O. Box 20401 2500 EK The Hague The Netherlands

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	<input type="text" value="2015"/>
To year	<input type="text" value="2020"/>

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	<input type="text" value="Oostvaardersplassen"/>
---	--

2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary Yes No

(Update) B. Changes to Site area No change to area

(Update) For secretariat only. This update is an extension

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS? No

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps	<input type="text" value="0"/>
-------------	--------------------------------

Boundaries description

The boundary of the Ramsar site is equal to the Natura 2000-site with the same name.

In 2014 the Ramsar Site boundary has been delineated more accurately and aligned with the Natura 2000 site boundary. Dikes with roads have been excluded, resulting in a reduction of 123 ha.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	<input type="text" value="Flevoland"/>
--	--

b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	Lelystad to the north and Almere to the south with populations in 2021 of 79.811 and 214.715 respectively (Source: CBS, Netherlands Statistics).
---	--

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

RIS for Site no. 427, Oostvaardersplassen, Netherlands

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes No

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes No

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha):

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	Atlantic

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

The bio-geographic regions dataset used, contains the official delineations used in the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and for the EMERALD Network set up under the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

- Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Other reasons

The Oostvaardersplassen has been awarded a European Diploma of Protected Areas by the Council of Europe in 1999. This award is a prestigious international award granted since 1965 by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to natural and semi-natural areas and landscapes of exceptional European importance for the preservation of biological, geological and landscape diversity and managed in an exemplary way.

- Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

- Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

The Oostvaardersplassen is designated as a Natura 2000 site (SPA) and can therefore be considered important for maintaining the biodiversity of the Atlantic biogeographic region. Besides the species mentioned under criterion 2, the site has also been designated as a SPA for a number of bird species that are not on Annex I of the Birds Directive. See section 3.3

- Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

Optional text box to provide further information

The Ramsar site is also part of the Natura 2000 network in the European Union. It is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for the functions that it provides to specific breeding and non-breeding bird species (e.g. migratory, hibernating, sleeping, resting, foraging).

- Criterion 5 : >20,000 waterbirds

Overall waterbird numbers

55,238

Start year

2015

End year

2020

Source of data:

Sovon, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology

Optional text box to provide further information

Start season 2015/2016. End season 2019/2020. Peak numbers for all five seasons > 20,000. Average 55,238 individuals.

- Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

Optional text box to provide further information

The 1% waterbird population thresholds are based on the 7th Edition of the Conservation Status Report (CSR7).

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Others																	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	<i>Castor fiber</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species	
Birds																	
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species (as breeding bird).	The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anas acuta</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	374	2015/16-2019/20	0.6	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species (as breeding bird).	Reference population: North-west Europe. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4004	2015/16-2019/20	6.2	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species (as breeding bird).	Reference population: North-west & Central Europe (win). The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anas crecca</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12467	2015/16-2019/20	2.5	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species (as breeding bird).	Reference population: crecca, North-west Europe. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anas penelope</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4695	2015/16-2019/20	0.3	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species (as breeding bird).	Reference population: Western Siberia & NE Europe/NW Europe. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anas strepera</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1072	2015/16-2019/20	0.9	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: strepera, North-west Europe. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	25887	2015/16-2019/20	2.2	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: albifrons, NW Siberia & NE Europe/North-west Europe. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anser anser</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	30745	2015/16-2019/20	3.2	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: anser, NW Europe/South-west Europe. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Ardea alba</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	484	2015/16-2019/20	0.6	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: alba, W, C & SE Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9323	2015/16-2019/20	4.7	VU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: North-east Europe/North-west Europe. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13034	2015/16-2019/20	1.5	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: North-west Europe (win). The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	28	2015/16-2019/20	0.4	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species (as breeding bird).	Reference population: stellaris, W Europe, NW Africa (bre). The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	24182	2015/16-2019/20	2	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: Russia/Germany & Netherlands. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2665	2015/16-2019/20	0.1		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: W Europe/W Europe, W Mediterranean, West Africa.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I Birds Directive	The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	16	2015/16-2019/20	0.1	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: bewickii, Western Siberia & NE Europe/North-west Europe. foraging, resting
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	33	2015/16-2019/20	0	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: North-west Mainland Europe. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	2015/16-2019/20	0	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species (as breeding bird).	Reference population: garzetta, Western Europe, NW Africa. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National red list species (as breeding bird).	The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	2015/16-2019/20	0	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species (as breeding bird).	Reference population: minutus, W Europe, NW Africa/Subsaharan Africa. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	659	2015/16=2019/20	0.8	NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: limosa, Western Europe/NW & West Africa. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species (as breeding bird).	The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	38	2015/16-2019/20	0.1	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: North-west & Central Europe (win). The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4448	2015/16-2019/20	0.7	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: sinensis, Northern & Central Europe. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	474	2015/16-2019/20	0	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: Northern Europe & Western Siberia/West Africa. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	252	2015/16-2019/20	1.6	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: leucorodia, West Europe/West Mediterranean & West Africa. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4194	2015/16-2019/20	0.4	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: altifrons, Northern Europe/Western Europe & NW Africa Foraging, resting
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	41	2015/16-2019/20	0	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species (as breeding bird).	Reference population: Europe/Africa. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	594	2015/16-2019/20	0.6	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: Western Europe & North-west Africa (bre). The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	2015/16-2019/20	0	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: ruficollis, Europe & North-west Africa. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	349	2015/16-2019/20	0.1	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: North-west Europe. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5477	2015/16-2019/20	0.1	NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: Europe, W Asia/Europe, N Africa & SW Asia. Foraging, resting

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Bird data are provided by SOVON, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology.

The 1% waterbird population thresholds are based on the 7th Edition of the Conservation Status Report (CSR7).

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

An extensive area of shallow lakes, pools, marshes, reedbeds, Salix woodland and grassland.

For birds the Oostvaardersplassen is the most important clay marsh in the Netherlands. It is a very important breeding area for birds of extensive reed marshes. A large part of the population of species like Great Cormorant, Bittern, Great Egret, Little Egret and Savi's Warbler breed here. For some species the large scale of the site resulted in an important source, from which the rest of the Netherlands (Bleu Throat, Great Egret) or western Europe (Bearded Tit) could be colonized. Rare species occurring here are the Hen Harrier, for which this is the only breeding site besides the Wadden islands, and since 2006 the White-tailed or Sea Eagle.

The site is also very important for migrating birds. Many species of birds of prey, herons, swans, ducks and geese come here to forage and rest. Tens of thousands of Greylag Geese use the Oostvaardersplassen as moulting area.

Large herbivores, Heck cattle, Konik horses and Red deer were introduced at the site. Together with moulting and wintering geese they keep large parts of the site open, with exception of some scattered trees. This gave the site also the name "Serengeti of the north".

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> O: Permanent freshwater lakes		3	1040	
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/pools		1	2738	Rare
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> Xp: Permanent Forested peatlands		4	438	Rare

Human-made wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type
4: Seasonally flooded agricultural land		2	1095

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

<no data available>

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	% occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Leuciscus idus</i>				National red list species

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
C: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with mild winters	Cfb: Marine west coast (Mild with no dry season, warm summer)

The climates according to Köppen are rainy (Cfb) and montane (EH).

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

Entire river basin

- Upper part of river basin
- Middle part of river basin
- Lower part of river basin
- More than one river basin
- Not in river basin
- Coastal

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

This wetland is part of the catchment area of the river Rhine.

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

No available information

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes No

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

The soil is homogenous and very fertile. Soils with light clay of marine origin are found everywhere within the site. The general soil types are: Alluvial, Brown forest soils and montane soils. The general land use is forestry, pasture farming, arable farming, unproductive land (high mountains).

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from surface water	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
To downstream catchment	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology:

Water levels largely depend on precipitation and evaporation.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown

Please provide further information on sediment (optional):

The silt at the bottom of the shallow pools is easily swirled up as a result of reed grazing by moulting geese (sludge agitation), wind action (sludge resuscitation) and bottom-digging fish (especially carp). This sludge sediments locally at the edges of the pools.

4.4.6 - Water pH

Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Unknown

Please provide further information on pH (optional):

The pH in the Oostvaardersplassen is approximately 7, except on landfills, where it can reach values from 3 to 4.5.

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown
 Unknown

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Eutrophic
 (Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown
 Unknown

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the i) broadly similar ii) significantly different site itself:

- Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development
- Surrounding area has higher human population density
- Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use
- Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Wetland non-food products	Timber	Medium

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	Medium

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	Medium
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	Medium
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	Medium
Scientific and educational	Major scientific study site	Medium
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	High

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	High

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

The hydrological value of the Oostvaardersplassen includes flood control.

Walking and non-motorised vehicles <5%, water management >95%.
 Approximately 200,000 visitors a year.

Ongoing biodiversity monitoring is one of the obligatory activities in relation to the designated Natura 2000-species.

Main ecosystem research is nowadays carried out by the University of Groningen and by Alterra, Research Institute within the Wageningen University and Research Centre.

The grazing animals, the wintering birds and the White-tailed Eagle form a nature tourist attraction. There is an information centre and there are several hides and shields for watching the birds and animals.

Visitors centre of the State Forestry Service, excursions, hide, information booklet.

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes No Unknown

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland

RIS for Site no. 427, Oostvaardersplassen, Netherlands

ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples

iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland

<no data available>

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

within the Ramsar site:

The site is owned by the State Forestry Service (SBB).

in the surrounding area:

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

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

Staatsbosbeheer, see: <https://www.staatsbosbeheer.nl/Natuurgebieden/oostvaardersplassen>

Provide the name and/or title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

See <https://www.staatsbosbeheer.nl/Natuurgebieden/oostvaardersplassen>

Postal address:

Head office: Staatsbosbeheer, P.O. Box 2, 3800 AA Amersfoort, the Netherlands, tel. +31 (0)30-6926111

E-mail address:

info@staatsbosbeheer.nl

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Transportation and service corridors

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Aircraft flight paths	Low impact	Medium impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Recreational and tourism activities	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Unspecified/others	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Air-borne pollutants	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

Climate change and severe weather

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Unspecified	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

Regional (international) legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
EU Natura 2000	Oostvaardersplassen	https://www.natura2000.nl/gebied/en/flevoland/oostvaardersplassen	whole

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
National Ecological Network (NEN)	Oostvaardersplassen	https://www.government.nl/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/national-ecological-network-nen	whole
National Park	Nieuw Land	https://www.nationaalparknieuwland.nl/nl	partly

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Oostvaardersplassen	http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/1244	whole
Other non-statutory designation	KBA Oostvaardersplassen	http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/1244	whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

- Ia Strict Nature Reserve
- Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection
- II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation
- III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features
- IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention
- V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation
- VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Implemented

Species

Measures	Status
Threatened/rare species management programmes	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Research	Implemented
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Implemented
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Implemented

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? Yes

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes No

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes No

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

Visitors centre of the State Forestry Service, excursions, hide, information booklet.

URL of site-related webpage (if relevant): <https://www.staatsbosbeheer.nl/Natuurgebieden/oostvaardersplassen/Buitencentrum>

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? Yes, there is a plan

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Plant community	Implemented
Animal community	Implemented
Birds	Implemented

Ongoing biodiversity monitoring is one of the obligatory activities in relation to the designated Natura 2000-species.

Main ecosystem research is nowadays carried out by the University of Groningen and by Alterra, Research Institute within the Wageningen University and Research Centre.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

The site equals the Natura 2000-boundaries. Voor up-to-date information and references about the site see <https://www.natura2000.nl/gebieden/flevoland/oostvaardersplassen>.

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory

<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<1 file(s) uploaded>

vi. other published literature

<no file available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



-(Hans Kampf, -)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<2 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 1989-06-02