

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2009-2012 version

1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

Ms. A. Pel-Roest
Ministry of Economic Affairs
Department of Nature and Biodiversity
Prins Clauslaan 8
P.O. Box 20401
2500 EK The Hague, the Netherlands
Tel: +31 (0)70 378 6868

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

September 2013

3. Country:

the Netherlands

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Deelen (see 7b)

5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for :

- a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ; or
b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

a) Site boundary and area

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged:

or

If the site boundary has changed:

- i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ; or
ii) the boundary has been extended ; or
iii) the boundary has been restricted**

and/or

If the site area has changed:

- i) the area has been measured more accurately ; or
ii) the area has been extended ; or
iii) the area has been reduced**

** **Important note:** If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the

Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

Nothing particular.

7. Map of site:

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:

- i) a hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List):
- ii) an electronic format (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image)
- iii) a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

Ramsar site De Deelen has also been designated as the European Natura 2000-site Deelen. For this RIS-version, the Ramsar site boundary has therefore been adjusted to the Natura 2000-boundary. In total this new boundary resulted in a slight increase of +0,3 ha.

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude, in degrees and minutes):

53°02'N - 05°55'E

9. General location:

Province of Friesland, ca. 5 km north of Heerenveen (population 43.514 per 1-1-2012; source CBS, Netherlands Statistics).

10. Elevation: (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)

NAP -1 – 0 m

11. Area:

514,2 ha

12. General overview of the site:

The Deelen is located to the north of the city of Heerenveen. It is one of the few remnants of the extensive complex of peat bog landscape that once covered north-western Overijssel and Friesland. It is an area of former peat-workings along the small river Boorne comprising open water, channels (“petgaten”), reedbeds, shrubs and wet meadows. The “petgaten” (channels dug for the harvesting of peat) are relatively young, because peat digging started early 1900 and is still going on. Petgaten are also dug for nature conservation purposes. This resulted in a large area of shallow open water, where succession from land to water takes place. The petgaten are separated from each other by small ridges (strips of land where peat was laid to dry). Reed, alder and willows grow on these ridges.

13. Ramsar Criteria:

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9

14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:

The Ramsar site Deelen, has been designated under Natura 2000 as well. Natura 2000 is the centrepiece of EU nature & biodiversity policy. It is an EU-wide network of nature protection areas which aims to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. It is comprised of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated by Member States under the Habitats Directive, and also incorporates Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Birds Directive. Natura 2000 applies to SACs and SPAs which are divided into biogeographical regions. The Ramsar site Deelen applies to the Bird Directive only and the justification for the application of each Ramsar criterion below, greatly refers to its designation as a SPA.

Justification criterion 2

The table below shows Annex I species (BD) for which the site has been designated as a SPA, as well as their current status on the National Red List. Some other threatened species of the National Red Lists have also been added to the tables.

Species of Annex I of the European Bird Directive for which the site has been designated as a SPA, as well as some threatened species of the National Red Lists (- = Not Applicable). Year of adoption of the National Red List in parentheses.

Species(group)	Species code	BD Annex	National RL category
Molluscs			(2004)
<i>Pisidium pseudosphaerium</i>	-	-	EN
Non-breeding birds			
Great Egret <i>Egretta alba</i>	A027	I	-
Barnacle Goose <i>Branta leucopsis</i>	A045	I	-
Smew <i>Mergus albellu</i>	A068	I	-
Breeding birds			(2004)
Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	A021	I	EN
Purple Heron <i>Ardea purpurea</i>	A029	I	EN
Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i>	A197	I	EN

Justification criterion 3

The Deelen 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 BD. See the table below.

Bird species (not on Annex I of the BD) for which the site has been designated as a SPA as well as their status on the National Red List (2004).

Species	Species code	National RL category
Non-breeding birds		
White-fronted Goose <i>Anser albifrons</i>	A041	-
Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>	A043	-
Eurasian Wigeon <i>Anas [Mareca] Penelope</i>	A050	-
Northern Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>	A056	-

Breeding birds		(2004)
Western Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	A081 A295	LC
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		LC

Justification criterion 4

The site is of particular importance for several breeding and non-breeding bird species (see criterion 2, 3 and 6), of which several species gather in relatively high population numbers like breeding colonies of Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* and Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*, or species of ducks and geese during the migration and/or wintering periods like the Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*.

Justification criterion 5

The site regularly supports more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds: however the average peak number was only 15.203 for the period 2005/2006-2009/2010, which is less than the average peak number of 21.929 for the period 1999/2000-2003/2004 (Source: Sovon, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology).

Justification criterion 6

Species meeting the 1% threshold (WPE-4, Wetlands International 2006; Source: Sovon, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology). (NB = nonbreeding, BR = breeding period 2006-2010).

Species (UK)	Species	NB / BR	Biogeographic population	1% threshold	Average number of birds between 2006-2010	% at site
White-fronted Goose ¹	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	NB	NW. Siberia/ NW-NE. Europe	10000	24640	2,5
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	NB	NW/ Central Europe	400	684	1,7
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	NB	NW-Europe	600	737	1,2
Barnacle Goose ¹	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	NB	Russia/ Germany/ Netherlands	4200	17500	4,2

¹Based on one counting only.

Compared to the period of 1992-98 (previous updated version) the species Gadwall *Anas strepera* (NB) now also meets the 1%-threshold.

15. Biogeography

a) biogeographic region:

The Ramsar site belongs to the Atlantic biogeographic region.

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

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)

16. Physical features of the site:

The Deelen has been formed by peat excavations, which started early 20th century. The average water depth is 1,3 meters, but some locations are very shallow.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

This wetland is part of the catchment area of the river Rhine. The surface area of the catchment is 185.000 km². Geologically and geomorphologically it consists mainly of Quarternary, Paleozoic and Mesozoic sediments and Tertiary mountains. 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). The climates according to Köppen are rainy (Cbf) and montane (EH).

18. Hydrological values:

The hydrological values of the Deelen include flood control and groundwater replenishment.

19. Wetland Types

a) presence:

Marine/coastal: A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J • K • Zk(a)

Inland: L • M • N • O • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • Tp • Ts • U •
Va •
Vt • W • Xf • Xp • Y • Zg • Zk(b)

Human-made: 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • Zk(c)

b) dominance:

O 50%; Tp 40%; Xp 10%; 9.

20. General ecological features:

The Deelen is one of the few remnants of the extensive complex of peat bog landscape that once covered north-western Overijssel and Friesland.

Plant communities of European interest that occur are:

- *Cicuto-Caricetum pseudocyperi*,
- *Carici elongatae alnetum*,
- *Thelypterido-Alnetum*.

The Deelen is an important breeding area for birds of reed marshes, such as Marsh harrier, Savi's warbler, Sedge warbler, Purple heron and Bittern. Also the largest colony of Black terns in Friesland occurs here. Compared to other marshes also a large density of Grasshopper warblers occurs here. The area is also important as foraging, resting and moulting area for geese and waders.

Human activities include small scale reed-harvesting and peat extracting. The site is open for public: there are hiking routes, a hide for birdwatching and boat and hiking excursions are organised.

21. Noteworthy flora:

Noteworthy flora

Species(group)	National RL category
Vascular plants	(2004)
Marsh Gentian <i>Gentiana pneumonanthe</i>	NT

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Most noteworthy fauna is listed under no. 14. The HD-species below are also observed at the site, but the site has not been designated as a SAC for these species.

Noteworthy fauna

Species(group)	Species code	HD Annex	National RL category
Beetles			
<i>Graphoderus bilineatus</i>	H1082	II, IV	-
Mammals			(2009)
Pond Bat <i>Myotis dasycneme</i>	H1318	II, IV	LC

23. Social and cultural values:

a) Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values:

See 25. Current land use

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning?

No

24. Land tenure/ownership:

a) within the Ramsar site:

The site is owned by Staatsbosbeheer (465 ha); the remainder is in private ownership. Surrounding area: several private owners.

b) in the surrounding area:

Surrounding area: several private owners.

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:

Diary farming 5 - 35%, Reed cutting 5 - 35%, Wind mills, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks 5 - 35%, Nautical sports 5 - 35%, Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles 5 - 35%, Water management >95%.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Farming

26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

a) within the Ramsar site:(A = serious threat covering large part of the area; B = moderate threat or local threat; C = minor threat):

Drainage (B -); Pollution (not Industrial discharge) (A - eutrophication).

b) in the surrounding area:

Nutrient pollution caused by water from surrounding farmland.

27. Conservation measures taken:

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site.

- Special Protection Area (Birds Directive 79/409/EEC, 1992)
- Natura 2000

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site:

Ia ; Ib ; II ; III ; IV ; V ; VI

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

The Ramsar site matches 100% with the designation for Natura 2000. The draft Natura 2000-management plan is available.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

Nothing particular

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

Nothing particular

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

Ongoing biodiversity monitoring is one of the obligatory activities in relation to the designated Natura 2000 species. SOVON, the Dutch Bird Research Organisation, coordinates for instance a continues national bird monitoring program in which it cooperates with 7000 volunteers, research institutes and organisations in the monitoring of birds throughout the Netherlands (among which the Deelen).

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

Visitors centre, excursions, hide.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

See 25. Current land use. Number of visitors not known.

32. Jurisdiction:

Municipalities Boarnsterhim, Heerenveen and Skarsterlan; Functional jurisdiction (conservation purposes): Ministry of Economic Affairs.

33. Management authority:

Main management authority: Staatsbosbeheer, P.O. Box 1300, 3970 BH Driebergen, tel. +31 (0)30-6926111.

34. Bibliographical references:

- BirdLife International, 2004. Birds in Europe, population estimates, trends and conservation status. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International. (BirdLife Conservation Series No. 12).
- Hornman, M., Hustings, F., Koffijberg, K., Kleefstra, R., Klaassen, O., van Winden, E., SOVON Ganzen- en Zwanenwerkgroep & L. Soldaat, 2012. Watervogels in Nederland

2009/2010. SOVON-rapport 2012/02, Waterdienst-rapport 12.06. SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland, Nijmegen.

- Janssen, John, A.M. & Joop, H.J. Schaminée, 2009. Europese Natuur in Nederland. Laag Nederland Natura 2000-gebieden. KNNV-Uitgeverij. 248p.
- Ministerie van LNV, 2009. Besluit Natura 2000-gebied Deelen.
- 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.

Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**

Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • e-mail: ramsar@ramsar.org