



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

Netherlands

55 Ramsar Site(s) covering 905,849 ha

Alde Feanen

Site number: 578 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Friesland
Area: 2,124 ha | Coordinates: 53°08'N 05°56'E | Designation dates: 30-12-1992
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Alde Feanen. 07/01/93; Friesland; 2,124 ha; 53°07'N 005°55'E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC); National Park. Alde Feanen is an area of freshwater lakes, reed lands, forested marshland and grasslands which make up one of the few remnants of an extensive peat bog landscape. The boundaries of the Ramsar Site have been adjusted to the boundaries of the Natura 2000 site. It supports rare and endangered species of birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles and butterflies, and notable plants such as the critically endangered bog orchid (*Hammarbia paludosa*), making it important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Atlantic biogeographic region. Moreover, the Site is an important breeding, staging, moulting and wintering area, supporting more than 20,000 birds and up to 1% of the population of shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), gadwall (*Anas strepera*), barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*) and great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*). It also plays an important role in flood regulation and groundwater replenishment. As well as water management, the Site is used for farming, commercial fisheries, oil and gas extraction, and recreational activities such as angling and nautical sports. The main threats derive from drainage, pollution and eutrophication caused by farming activities, and habitat disturbance due to tourism. Ramsar Site no. 578. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Bargerveen

Site number: 581 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Drenthe
Area: 2,082 ha | Coordinates: 52°41'N 07°02'E | Designation dates: 30-12-1992
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bargerveen. 07/01/93; Drenthe; 2082.5 ha; 52°41'N 007°02'E; Natura 2000 (SAC, SPA). The Site is a remnant of a vast raised bog, which used to cover both sides of the Dutch-German border. Currently the area is formed by subatlantic raised bogs in a landscape of dry and wet heaths, swamp forests, peatland and pools within seasonally flooded agricultural land. The Ramsar Site boundary has been amended to follow the Natura 2000 site, with some residential areas excluded. The Site is of international importance for various species of wintering geese and endangered species of breeding birds such as the common snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) and whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*). It also supports endangered plant species such as bog asphodel, dragonflies such as the bog hawk and butterflies such as the grizzled skipper. The Site plays an important role in groundwater replenishment and climate regulation, acting as a carbon sink. Human activities include tourism and water management. Drainage is the most important threat to the Site's ecological character; however, hydrological measures have been implemented to promote the natural regeneration of the bog system. Ramsar site no. 581. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Biesbosch

Site number: 197 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Noord-Brabant and Zuid-Holland
Area: 9,640 ha | Coordinates: 51°44'N 04°47'E | Designation dates: 23-05-1980
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Biesbosch. 23/05/80; Noord-Brabant; 9,640 ha; 051°44'N 004°46'E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC), National Park. The Site, at the confluence of the Rhine and Meuse rivers, is formed by tidal freshwater floodplain marshes characterized by reedbeds, swamp forests and creeks. The original Ramsar Site, named De Biesbosch (southern part), was extended significantly to follow the Natura 2000 boundary, resulting in the addition of an area of over 6,800 ha. Biesbosch is rich in biodiversity and supports globally threatened species of waterbirds such as bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) and spotted crake (*Porzana porzana*). It also regularly supports more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds, and the shallow waters play an important function as a spawning, nursery and feeding grounds for various fish and mollusc species. The Site's hydrological values include flood control, sediment and nutrient retention, and water purification. It is also used for farming and reed cutting, and it hosts wind farms and commercial fisheries. The threats to the ecological character of the Site include the continuing industrialization and urbanization of the surrounding areas. Ramsar site no. 197. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Broekvelden/Vettenbroek

Site number: 1,240 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Zuid-Holland

Area: 700 ha | Coordinates: 52°02'N 04°46'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The complex of shallow slightly brackish lakes criss-crossed by land strips, peatlands, reed fringes, wet meadows and improved grasslands is near the city of Gouda. The current landscape has been formed by land reclamation and peat extraction. The Ramsar Site boundaries were aligned with the Natura 2000 site in 2014, resulting in a reduction of 14 ha. The Site is of international importance for the significant number of waterbirds which congregate there, with average peak numbers of over 50,000 from 2005/2006 to 2009/2010. It hosts nearly 3% of the western Siberian/northwestern-northeastern European population of the Eurasian wigeon and 1% of the individuals of northwestern European population of gadwall. The main human uses include boating, commercial fisheries, farming, and tourism. The Site is threatened by non-industrial pollution and the expansion of agricultural land.

Deelen

Site number: 579 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Friesland

Area: 514 ha | Coordinates: 53°01'N 05°54'E | Designation dates: 30-12-1992

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Deelen. 07/01/93; Friesland; 514 ha; 53°02'N 05°55'E; Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC). The Ramsar Site, whose boundary has been adjusted to that of the Natura 2000 site, is one of the few remnants of an extensive peat bog landscape that once covered north-western Overijssel and Friesland. It is characterized by wet meadows, reedbeds, lakes and woodland. The Site is internationally important for endangered breeding birds such as bittern, purple heron and black tern, and it regularly supports more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds and more than 1% of the European populations of gadwall, shoveler and barnacle goose. It also plays a very important role in flood control and groundwater replenishment. Human activities include reed harvesting, farming, peat extraction, water management and recreation. The main threats to the Site's ecological character derive from drainage and nutrient pollution from the surrounding farmland. The Dutch Bird Research Organisation SOVON coordinates a national bird monitoring programme at the Site. Ramsar site no. 579. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

De Slagbaai

Site number: 203 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Bonaire

Area: 90 ha | Coordinates: 12°16'N 68°25'W | Designation dates: 23-05-1980

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

De Slagbaai. 23/05/80; Bonaire; 90 ha; 12°16'N 068°25'W. Within a National Park. A shallow, permanent, saline lagoon, isolated from the sea by a bank of beach rock. Brine shrimp and brine flies provide valuable food sources for birds. The lagoon is a resting area for *Phalacrocorax olivaceus* (max. 50), and a staging area for a variety of Nearctic breeding species. Ramsar site no. 203.

Deurnsche Peel & Mariapeel

Site number: 580 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Brabant & Limburg

Area: 2,734 ha | Coordinates: 51°25'N 05°54'E | Designation dates: 07-01-1993

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Deurnsche Peel & Mariapeel. 07/01/93; Noord-Brabant; 2,734 ha; 051°25'N 005°54'E; Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC). The original Ramsar Site's name (Deurnese Peelgebieden) and boundary have been amended to reflect the larger Natura 2000 site. The Site is a former raised bog, with marshland, open water, channels, heathlands, and forests dominated by birch, oak and pine. It is of great importance as a representative landscape type specific to the western European Plain, and it is notable as a resting place for migrating common cranes and tundra bean geese. Regeneration projects have led to substantial increases in the extent of peat moss species such as *Sphagnum cuspidatum* and to a lesser extent *Spagnum fallax*. The Site plays an important role in groundwater replenishment, and the land is used for farming, recreation and water management. Potential threats Site include agricultural intensification, overgrazing, drainage, infrastructure developments and tourism. Ramsar site no. 580. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Duinen Ameland

Site number: 2,212 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Province of Friesland.

Area: 2,054.5 ha | Coordinates: 53°27'N 05°45'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Duinen Ameland is a small Wadden Sea island characterised by intertidal marshes, dune slacks and polders. The Site was formerly part of Ramsar Site 1252 (Waddeneilanden, Noordzeekustzone, Breebaart) which was divided in six Sites following Natura 2000 borders in 2014. The Site is of international importance for endangered breeding birds such as bittern and red-backed shrike. Moreover, it supports more than 1% of the individuals of the Eastern Atlantic population of Eurasian spoonbill. The dunes form a natural coastal defence against the erosive forces of the North Sea and support rich flora and diverse lichen communities. The Site plays an important role in freshwater supply. Land use is dedicated to tourism, conservation and research, and there is a visitor's centre in the village of Nes. Potential threats to the Site's ecological character are posed by gas exploitation, recreation activities, groundwater extraction and drainage for agriculture.

Duinen en Lage Land Texel

Site number: 2,213 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Province of Noord-Holland

Area: 4,088.8 ha | Coordinates: 53°06'N 04°49'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Texel is the largest island in the Wadden Sea; it is characterized by wet and dry dune slacks, woodland, heathland, salt marshes and polders. The Site was formerly part of Ramsar Site 1252 (Waddeneilanden, Noordzeekustzone, Breebaart) which was divided in six Sites following Natura 2000 borders in 2014. The Site is of international importance for breeding and non-breeding waterbirds such as bittern and little tern that forage at low tide in the sandbanks and use the higher beaches and dunes for resting. The Site supports diverse and threatened species of flora such as fen orchid, fewflower spikerush and flea sedge, mosses, endemic mammals such as root vole and butterflies. All are important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Atlantic biogeographic region. The dunes act as a natural coastal defence against the erosive forces of the North Sea and provide freshwater supply. Human uses include tourism, farming, military training, conservation and research. The main threat to the site is bird disturbance caused by the military, tourist and recreation activities.

Duinen Schiermonnikoog

Site number: 2,214 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Province of Friesland

Area: 833.1 ha | Coordinates: 53°29'N 06°10'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Duinen Schiermonnikoog is the smallest of the five inhabited Wadden Sea barrier islands. The Site was formerly part of Ramsar Site 1252 (Waddeneilanden, Noordzeekustzone, Breebaart) which was divided in six Sites following Natura 2000 borders in 2014. It is formed by dunes and intertidal mudflats, oak groves, conifer crops and a small freshwater lake and tidal lagoon. The Site is of international importance for European threatened species of breeding birds such as bittern and western marsh harrier, as well as for endangered flora such as fen orchid, musk orchid and yellow centaury. The dunes play an important role in freshwater supply and shoreline stabilization. Land use is dedicated to tourism, conservation and research. The main threats to the Site's ecological character are posed by tourism and groundwater extraction.

Duinen Terschelling

Site number: 2,215 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Province of Friesland

Area: 4,040.3 ha | Coordinates: 53°24'N 05°18'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Duinen Terschelling is one of the larger islands in the Wadden Sea, characterized by sand dunes and an extensive intertidal mudflat surrounded by grassland, conifer crops, small villages and silt polders claimed from the sea. The Site was formerly part of Ramsar Site 1252 (Waddeneilanden, Noordzeekustzone, Breebaart) which was divided in six Sites following Natura 2000 borders in 2014. The site is of international importance for European threatened species of breeding birds such as little tern, northern harrier and western marsh harrier, and endangered species of flora such as pigmy rush and green-winged orchid. The dunes form a natural coastal defence against the erosive forces of the North Sea and they retain rain water ensuring freshwater supply. Human activities include tourism, conservation and research. The main threats to the Site's ecological character are posed by groundwater extraction and tourism.

Duinen Vlieland

Site number: 2,216 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Province of Friesland.

Area: 1,484.1 ha | Coordinates: 53°17'N 05°02'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Duinen Vlieland is a small island in the Wadden Sea, characterized by an extensive area of sand dunes, conifer crops and embanked brackish lagoons important for maintaining the biodiversity in the Atlantic biogeographic region. The Site was formerly part of Ramsar Site 1252 (Waddeneilanden, Noordzeekustzone, Breebaart) which was divided into six Sites following Natura 2000 borders in 2014. The Site is of particular importance for breeding and non-breeding bird species. Some of these, such as the great cormorant and Eurasian spoonbill, gather in particularly high numbers. The Site plays also an important role in freshwater supply and shoreline stabilization. Land use is dedicated to tourism, conservation and research. The main threats to the Site are bird disturbance by air force military training and over-exploitation of groundwater.

Engbertsdijksvenen

Site number: 428 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Overijssel

Area: 998 ha | Coordinates: 52°28'N 06°40'E | Designation dates: 02-06-1989

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Engbertsdijksvenen. 02/06/89; Overijssel; 998 ha; 052°29'N 006°40'E; Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC). Engbertsdijksvenen is one of the last remaining raised bogs in the Netherlands, with dry heathland, birch forests, ditches and drainage channels. The Ramsar Site boundary has been aligned with the Natura 2000 boundary, resulting in the addition of an area of 105 ha. The Site is an important breeding, resting and moulting area for many species of duck, goose, swan and waders. It regularly supports protected species such as the common crane as well as more than 1% of the individuals of the population of tundra bean goose. The wetland plays an important role in groundwater replenishment and carbon sequestration. The main potential threat to its ecological character is drainage. Land use is dedicated to water management, recreation and tourism. There is a visitors' centre and a national bird monitoring programme is carried out at the site by the Dutch Bird Research Organisation SOVON. Ramsar site no. 428. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Grevelingen

Site number: 1,272 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Zuid-Holland and Zeeland

Area: 13,753 ha | Coordinates: 51°45'N 04°00'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Grevelingen. 29/08/00. Zuid-Holland, Zeeland. 13,753 ha; 51°45'N 004°00'E; Natura 2000 (SPA). The Site is an 18km-long intertidal area which was part of the former estuary of the Rhine and Meuse rivers until it was cut off from the North Sea in 1971. It is now a stagnant saline lake, mostly bordered by dykes, with some islets, sand dunes and wet meadows. The Ramsar Site boundary has been adjusted to the Natura 2000 site, and recreational areas, roads and agricultural land covering 78 ha have been excluded. The Site is particularly important for waterbirds: it supports large congregations with annual peaks averaging over 67,000 birds, while more than 1% of the biogeographical populations of 13 species of breeding and wintering birds are present. The main human uses are commercial fishing, water management, boating, tourism and leisure activities. The site is potentially threatened by encroaching industrialization and urbanization (with wind turbines creating specific threats), non-industrial pollution discharge and expanding recreational activities. Ramsar site no. 1272. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Groote Peel

Site number: 192 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Noord-Brabant and Limburg

Area: 1,348 ha | Coordinates: 51°21'N 05°49'E | Designation dates: 23-05-1980

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Groote Peel. 23/05/80. Noord-Brabant; 1,348 ha; 051°20'N 005°49'E. Added to the Montreux Record 4 July 1990, removed from the Record 16 June 1993. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC), National Park. The boundary of the Ramsar Site has been adjusted to the Natura 2000 site, resulting in an increase of 22 ha. The Site supports rich vegetation in a landscape characterized by marshland raised bog, pools, channels, heathland and pine plantations with artificially maintained water levels. It is an important breeding area for waterbirds, and particularly known as the most important resting place in the Netherlands of migrating common cranes. Groote Peel plays an important role in groundwater replenishment and carbon sequestration. As well as water management, the land is used for farming, forestry and tourism. The management measures implemented during the last ten years have restored the water levels, resulting in a substantial regeneration of peat moss species. There is a visitors' centre, and boardwalks have been constructed to make the Site more accessible. Ramsar Site no. 192. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Haringvliet

Site number: 1,244 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Zuid-Holland

Area: 10,880 ha | Coordinates: 51°46'N 04°14'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Haringvliet. 29/08/00; Zuid-Holland; 10,880 ha; 051°46'N 004°15'E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC). The Ramsar Site boundary has been aligned to the Natura 2000 site, resulting in an increase of 152 ha. Formerly (together with Hollands Diep and De Biesbosch) one of the estuaries of the Rhine/Maas system, it was separated from the sea in 1970 and is now a 27-kilometre stagnant freshwater lake bordered by reedbeds, seasonally flooded agricultural land, sandbanks and mudflats. The water level is artificially regulated and varies according to the supply from the Rhine. The Site regularly supports more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds and nationally endangered and vulnerable species such as avocet, Eurasian spoonbill, Kentish plover and Sandwich tern. It also plays an important role as spawning, nursery and feeding ground for many fish, and supports nationally endangered molluscs such as the dun sentinel and German hairy snail. The main human activities within the site are commercial fishing, farming and agriculture, shipping, reed cutting, water management and hydro-electric power generation, recreation and tourism, research and conservation. There is a visitors' centre at Tiengemeten Island. Potential threats to the Site's ecological character are industrialization, urbanization, bottom sediment pollution, wind turbines and eutrophication. Ramsar Site no. 1244. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Het Gotomeer

Site number: 202 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Bonaire

Area: 150 ha | Coordinates: 12°14'N 68°22'W | Designation dates: 23-05-1980

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Het Gotomeer. 23/05/80; Bonaire; 150 ha; 12°14'N 068°22'W. Within a National Park. A shallow, permanent, saline lagoon, isolated from the sea by a beach rock bank. Brine shrimp and brine fly are abundant in the hypersaline areas, providing valuable food sources for birds, including *Phoenicopterus ruber ruber* (100-500). The site is important for several species of breeding birds and for staging shorebirds which nest in North America. Ramsar site no. 202.

Het Lac

Site number: 199 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Bonaire

Area: 700 ha | Coordinates: 12°06'N 68°14'W | Designation dates: 23-05-1980

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Het Lac. 23/05/80; Bonaire; 700 ha; 12°06'N 068°14'W. Underwater Park. A shallow bay of dense sea grass, fringed by mangroves and separated from the sea by coral debris and red algae. The mangroves provide shelter for fish and invertebrates and contribute large quantities of organic debris to the bay, creating highly productive waters. An important feeding area for waterbirds and invertebrates, supporting several species of breeding waterbirds. Ramsar site no. 199.

Het Pekelmeer

Site number: 200 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Bonaire

Area: 400 ha | Coordinates: 12°02'N 68°15'W | Designation dates: 23-05-1980

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Het Pekelmeer. 23/05/80; Bonaire; 400 ha; 12°02'N 068°19'W. A shallow seawater lagoon located between a ridge of recrystallized coral debris (beach rock) and a commercial saltworks, linked to the open sea by an artificial channel. Sparsely vegetated, the site provides a flamingo nesting sanctuary and supports one of the most important nesting colonies of *Phoenicopterus ruber ruber* in the Caribbean (1,000 pairs). It serves as an important feeding area for Pelecanidae, Ardeidae (herons, bitterns, etc.), and various migratory shorebirds which breed in North America. Ramsar site no. 200.

Het Spaans Lagoen

Site number: 198 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Aruba

Area: 70 ha | Coordinates: 12°30'N 70°00'W | Designation dates: 23-05-1980

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Het Spaans Lagoen. 23/05/80; Aruba; 70 ha; 12°30'N 070°00'W. Conservation Area. A narrow coastal inlet, fringed by tidal mudflats and mangrove swamps. An important feeding and breeding area for waterbirds, and nursery area for various species of fish and crustaceans. Ramsar site no. 198.

Hollands Diep

Site number: 1,273 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Zuid-Holland

Area: 4,139 ha | Coordinates: 51°42'N 04°30'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hollands Diep. 29/08/00; Zuid-Holland; 4,139 ha; 051°42'N 004°30'E; Natura 2000 (SAC, SPA). The Ramsar Site boundary has been aligned to the Natura 2000 site, resulting in an increase of 247 ha. The Site, a former estuary in the Meuse-Rhine delta, is now a freshwater lake after its separation from the North Sea in 1970 by the Haringvliet dam. Hollands Diep is an especially important area for breeding waterbirds such as the Eurasian spoonbill and barnacle goose, and a valuable spawning, nursery and feeding ground for threatened fish species such as barbel and other migratory fish including sea lamprey and salmon. The Site plays an important role in flood regulation and sediment trapping. The lake and the adjacent land are used for forestry, farming, commercial fishing, shipping, water management, conservation and research. Factors adversely affecting the Site's ecological character include industrialization (in particular the construction of wind turbines), urbanization, eutrophication and water pollution. A management plan for the Site is currently being prepared. Ramsar Site no. 1273. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

IJsselmeer

Site number: 1,246 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Friesland,Flevoland,Noord-Holland

Area: 113,341 ha | Coordinates: 52°49'N 05°21'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

IJsselmeer. 29/08/00; Friesland, Flevoland, Noord-Holland; 113,341 ha; 052°45'N 005°27'E; Natura 2000 (SPA,SAC). The boundaries of the Ramsar Site have been aligned to the Natura 2000 site, resulting in an increase of 5,220 ha. IJsselmeer was cut off from the Wadden Sea by Afsluitdijk causeway in 1932, and about 45% of the territory was reclaimed as polders. Presently it is a vast shallow freshwater lake, the largest freshwater basin in the country. The Site regularly supports more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds as well as endangered bird species such as ruff, bittern, avocet and spotted crane. IJsselmeer plays a crucial role in regulation of hydrology in the northern Netherlands – it acts as a drain for the surrounding land and water is discharged into the Wadden Sea through Afsluitdijk or into the North Sea via Markermeer and the North Sea Channel. Human activities include tourism, commercial fisheries, shipping traffic and sand extraction. The site is threatened by artificial water level management, intensive commercial fishing, industrialization, urbanization and the construction of wind farms. Ramsar Site no. 1246. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Ketelmeer en Vossemeer

Site number: 1,274 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Overijssel,Flevoland

Area: 3,900 ha | Coordinates: 52°36'N 05°46'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, which is formed by artificial freshwater lakes created by the construction of dikes in the reclaimed IJsselmeer polders, is aligned with the Natura 2000 site boundary. The lakes receive their water from the Rhine and IJssel rivers. The Site is of international importance for endangered bird species such as bittern, spotted crane and great reed warbler. It regularly supports more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds, with an average peak number of over 21,000 between 2005/2006 and 2009/2010. The Site also supports more than 1% of the individuals of the northwestern European population of Gadwall. The lakes play an important role as water reservoirs for irrigating the surrounding agricultural land, while they are also used for boating, commercial fisheries, shipping traffic, water management and sand extraction. Serious threats are posed by reed cutting, aquaculture, pollution with nutrients increasing eutrophication, and the construction of a sludge depot.

Klein Bonaire Island and adjacent sea

Site number: 201 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Bonaire

Area: 600 ha | Coordinates: 12°10'N 68°19'W | Designation dates: 23-05-1980

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Klein Bonaire Island & adjacent sea. 23/05/80; Bonaire; 600 ha; 12°10'N 068°19'W. Underwater Park. A small uninhabited coral island supporting a sparse cover of shrubs and cacti. Brackish lagoons and fringing coral reefs support a rich marine fauna. The reefs experience heavy diving pressure. Ramsar site no. 201.

Klein Curaçao

Site number: 2,355 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Curaçao
Area: 248.5 ha | Coordinates: 11°59'N 68°39'W | Designation dates: 31-07-2018
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of the small, uninhabited island of Klein Curaçao and the surrounding sea. The eastern shore features a near-pristine, well-developed and still growing coral reef system that supports an enormous diversity of marine organisms. Such self-sustaining reef systems are increasingly rare in the Caribbean: this is one of the few remaining healthy examples and is representative of Caribbean reef communities in general. Its dense populations of branching corals protect the coastline by dissipating wave energy. The island is of global importance for its breeding population of the least tern *Sterna antillarum*, while a 600-metre stretch of sandy beach is the most important nesting area within Curaçao's jurisdiction for the critically endangered hawksbill turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata* and the endangered green sea turtle *Chelonia mydas*. The main threat to the Site is uncontrolled tourism, which may negatively affect the nesting activities of the sea turtles and terns.

Krammer-Volkerak

Site number: 747 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Zeeland, Noord-Brabant, Zuid-Holland
Area: 6,159 ha | Coordinates: 51°39'N 04°16'E | Designation dates: 04-09-1995
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Krammer-Volkerak. 04/09/95; Zeeland, Noord-Brabant, Zuid-Holland; 6,159 ha; 051°39'N 04°15'E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC). The Site is a former tidal estuary of the Rhine-Maas river system, which was transformed into a permanent freshwater lake by its separation from the North Sea in 1987. The Ramsar Site boundary was adjusted to the Natura 2000 site in 2014. The Site's islands, forested peatlands, mud flats and intertidal marshes are very important resting, moulting, feeding and breeding grounds for many species of waterbirds which are threatened in Europe, such as Kentish plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) and common tern (*Sterna hirundo*). The Site also supports over 50,000 wintering waterbirds and more than 1% of the population of eight bird species. Meanwhile it plays an important role in flood regulation. Human activities include commercial and recreational fishing, shipping traffic, nautical sports and water management. The main threats to the Site's ecological character are pollution, eutrophication and bird disturbance from recreational activities. Ramsar site no. 747. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Lauwersmeer

Site number: 1,247 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Groningen and Friesland
Area: 5,754 ha | Coordinates: 53°22'N 06°12'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lauwersmeer. 29/08/00; Groningen, Friesland; 5,754 ha; 053°22'N 006°13'E; Natura 2000 (SPA), National Park. The Site is a dammed estuary, which was part of the Waddenzee until it was closed off in 1969. It includes a shallow freshwater lake, marshes, wet grasslands and arable lands. The Ramsar Site boundary was aligned with the Natura 2000 Site in 2014, with a road and parking areas on the north side excluded. It hosts more than 20,000 wintering birds and over 1% of the biogeographic populations of 13 species of waterbirds. The Site also supports threatened mammals such as the otter (*Lutra lutra*) and pine marten (*Martes martes*), and endangered breeding birds such as the ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) and Montagu's harrier (*Circus pygargus*). It also plays an important role in water supply and the maintenance of the hydrological balance of the region. Human activities include tourism, commercial fishing, shipping, boating and farming. The main threats to the Site's ecological character are the disturbance of birds by military training and tourism, and the impacts of mining and gas exploration, reed cutting, non-industrial pollution and eutrophication. Significant research and monitoring is carried out within the Site. Ramsar Site no. 1247. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Leekstermeergebied

Site number: 1,248 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Drenthe and Groningen
Area: 1,543 ha | Coordinates: 53°11'N 06°27'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Leekstermeergebied. 29/08/00; Groningen, Drenthe; 1,543 ha; 053°11'N 006°26'E; Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC), Habitat/Species Management Area. The Site is a freshwater lake, part of the river Rhine catchment area, surrounded by reedbeds, peatbogs and pastures with small marshes and wet grasslands within seasonally flooded agricultural land. The Ramsar Site boundary was adjusted to the Natura 2000 site in 2014, with some residential and recreation areas excluded. The Site supports vulnerable species of breeding bird such as the corn crane (*Crex crex*) and spotted crane (*Porzana porzana*), and is of international importance for ducks and geese during migration and wintering periods. It also supports more than 1% of the individuals of the northwestern Siberian / northwestern-northeastern European population of white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*). The lake serves as a drain for the surrounding polders and provides water for irrigation. The main human uses include commercial fishing, boating, tourism and water management. The Site is threatened by drainage, unnatural water level management and eutrophication. Ramsar site no. 1248. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Malpais/Sint Michiel

Site number: 2,117 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Curaçao
Area: 1,100 ha | Coordinates: 12°10'N 67°00'W | Designation dates: 05-02-2013
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Malpais/Sint Michiel. 05/02/2013; Curaçao; 1,100 ha; 12°10'N 069°00'W. Important Bird Area. Malpais is a former plantation just to the north of Sint Michiel. There are two freshwater lakes and the hyper-saline St. Michiel lagoon connected to a bay in which coral reefs are found, surrounded by dry deciduous vegetation and a well-developed woodland habitat. The area provides refuge for many birds, such as the IUCN Red Listed Caribbean coot (*Fulica caribaea*). The lagoon also supports a significant fraction of the global population of the Common tern (*Sterna hirundo*) and is part of a regional network of foraging sites for the Caribbean flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*), protected under the Convention of Migratory Species. Freshwater is scarce in Curaçao and therefore of great ecological, social and economic value. The dam of Malpais is located downstream. Freshwater infiltrates into the soil, recharging groundwater reservoirs which allow woodlands to grow in the area. Some of the current threats which may affect the ecological character of the site are the landfill and runoff from a pig farm situated only 1 km away. Ramsar Site no. 2117. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Markermeer & IJmeer

Site number: 1,245 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Provinces of Flevoland and Noord-Holland
Area: 68,463.4 ha | Coordinates: 52°25'N 05°07'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Markermeer and IJmeer is a stagnant freshwater lake with submerged vegetation in the catchment of the river Rhine, which was separated from IJsselmeer by the closing of Houtribdijk in 1976. The two separate Ramsar Sites IJmeer and Markermeer (former Site no. 1249) have been merged into a single Site following the Natura 2000 boundary. The Site is of international importance for a large number of breeding and non-breeding birds, supporting regularly more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds, with an average peak number of almost 105,000 for the period from 2005/2006 to 2009/2010. Large resting groups of common pochard, tufted duck and common coot gather in relatively small areas. The lake is also an important spawning, nursery and feeding ground for fish and molluscs, and plays an important role as a freshwater reservoir for irrigation. Human activities include boating, tourism, extractive operations, commercial fisheries, shipping traffic, water management, conservation and research. The main threats potentially affecting the Site's ecological character relate to aquaculture and fisheries activities, plans to increase the capacity of recreational harbours, and eutrophication. Long-term monitoring has, however, shown a decrease in eutrophication and chemical water contamination and an increase in submerged vegetation. New habitat for birds such as gulls and terns have been created, which require intense nature management.

Markiezaat

Site number: 2,211 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Provinces of Noord-Brabant and Zeeland
Area: 1,831.9 ha | Coordinates: 51°28'N 04°17'E | Designation dates: 04-03-1987
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of former tidal channels and creeks, mud flats, salt marshes and higher ground with young shifting dunes. The former Ramsar Site Oosterschelde & Markiezaat has been designated as two separate Sites Markiezaat and Oosterschelde (which retains Site no. 354), following Natura 2000 boundaries. The Sites are not connected and their ecology is very different. The adjustment of the Markiezaat Site boundary has resulted in an increase of 10 ha. It is an internationally important area for European threatened breeding birds such as Eurasian spoonbill, avocet and Kentish plover. Moreover, the Site regularly supports more than 20,000 wintering birds and more than 1% of the individuals of the populations of five species of waterbirds. Land use is dedicated to dairy farming, forestry and outdoor recreation activities. The Site includes a visitor centre, hiking trails and observation hides. The main threats are posed by agriculture intensification, industrialization, urbanization, waste water discharge and construction of infrastructure such as power lines.

Muizenberg

Site number: 2,118 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Curaçao

Area: 65 ha | Coordinates: 12°10'N 68°55'W | Designation dates: 05-02-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Muizenberg. 05/02/2013; Curaçao; 65 ha; 12°09'29"N 068°55'07"W. Important Bird Area; Natural Park. Muizenberg comprises an intermittent shallow lake created by the damming of a stream that drains the surrounding low hills. Periodically inundated grassland and shrubland surround the wetland. A separate small pond, Kaya Fortuna, is situated 200m to the west. This area is internationally significant for its population of the Caribbean coot (*Fulica caribaea*), near-threatened under the IUCN Red List, and the Caribbean flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) conserved under the Convention of Migratory Species, but it also supports many other waterbirds, both residents and migrants. The Muizenberg dam was built by Shell Curaçao in 1915 to collect freshwater for industrial cooling purposes; with a capacity of 650,000 m³, it represents the largest freshwater reservoir on the island. The area was designated as a Natural Park for the improvement of the urban living conditions of the nearby population and is mainly used by hikers for recreational purposes. Illegal dumping of garbage, pollution, drainage of surrounding wetlands, and recreational disturbance are seen as the main potential threats. A general environmental education programme is being implemented. Ramsar Site no. 2118. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Mullet Pond

Site number: 2,270 | Country: Netherlands

| Administrative region: Mullet Bay Pond is situated in the Simpson Bay Lagoon, in the Simpson Bay Area on the Dutch Side of Sint

Area: 26.4 ha | Coordinates: 18°03'N 63°07'W | Designation dates: 23-05-2014

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mullet Pond is a semi-enclosed area of permanent shallow marine waters within the Simpson Bay Lagoon. The Site holds some of the few intact sea-grass beds in the wider Lagoon as well as 70% of the mangrove forest remaining on Sint Maarten, the Dutch part of the Caribbean island of Saint Martin. The mangroves and sea-grass beds act as a major nursery area and important habitat for juvenile fish species which develop in the lagoon before moving to local coral reef ecosystems including in the Man of War Shoal Marine Park. The nationally critically endangered buttonwood *Conocarpus erectus* is found on Mullet Pond. The Site is also the last remaining habitat in the wider Simpson Bay area for *Anolis pogus*, a species endemic to the island, and the last intact foraging grounds in the Lagoon for the globally endangered green turtle *Chelonia mydas*. The mangroves provide coastal protection during hurricanes and tropical storms, and help to cycle nutrients in the larger Simpson Bay area. As well as supporting the fish stocks which local fisheries depend on, the Site is also used for eco-tourism activities such as kayaking tours. The area is under continuing pressure from development, while other threats relate to dredging, recreational and tourism activities, storms and flooding and invasive alien species including the red lionfish *Pterois volitans*.

Naardermeer

Site number: 194 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Noord-Holland

Area: 1,151 ha | Coordinates: 52°18'N 05°07'E | Designation dates: 23-05-1980

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Naardermeer. 23/05/80; Noord Holland; 1151 ha; 052°18'N 005°07'E. Natura 2000 (SAC, SPA). The Ramsar Site boundary has been adjusted to the Natura 2000 site, resulting in an increase of +452 ha. A complex of shallow freshwater lakes, pools and canals, fens, reedbeds and swamp-forests surrounded by wet meadows and marshland. The area is important for endangered waterbirds such as Purple Heron and Black Tern. In addition, the site supports vulnerable populations of fish, molluscs and dragonflies. The surroundings area is densely populated and dedicated to agriculture. The main threats to the ecological character are related to drainage, groundwater extraction, pollution and disturbance caused by tourism pressure and a railway. Land use is dedicated to water management and recreation. Around the lake there is a 17 km path which leads to bird watching shelters and a visitor centre. Ramsar site no. 194. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

North Sea Coastal Area

Site number: 1,252 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Noord-Holland, Friesland, Groningen

Area: 144,474.8 ha | Coordinates: 53°21'N 05°23'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The North Sea Coastal Area Site (Noordzeekustzone in Dutch) is an extensive area of coastal shallow waters with sandbanks, mudflats, salt meadows and embryonic shifting dunes. It was formerly part of the Waddeneilanden, Noordzeekustzone, Breebaart Ramsar Site, which was divided in 2014 into six smaller Sites which follow Natura 2000 boundaries. The high food productivity of the Site supports healthy populations of endangered mammals such as harbour porpoise and grey seal, as well as more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds and more than 1% of the individuals of the biogeographic populations of six waterbird species. In addition, the site is an important spawning and nursery ground for fish such as sea lamprey and twaite shad. The main human activities include angling, boating, commercial fisheries, shipping traffic and military training. Potential threats to the site's ecological character derive from aquaculture and shellfish industry, gas exploration, pollution and bird disturbance caused by air force military training, recreation activities and tourism.

Northwest Curaçao

Site number: 2,119 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Curaçao Government

Area: 2,441 ha | Coordinates: 12°20'N 69°05'W | Designation dates: 05-02-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Northwest Curaçao. 05/02/2013; Curaçao; 2,441 ha; 12°21'11"N 069°05'00"W. Important Bird Area, Natural Parks. The area comprises a great variety of ecosystems such as coral reefs, coastal lagoons with sea grass beds and mangroves, coastal limestone terraces, inland hills supporting evergreen woodland, freshwater dams, natural springs and dry deciduous shrublands. The Ramsar site includes parts of Shete Boka and Christoffel Natural Parks. The wetland covers approximately 20 km of the rocky, wave-exposed north coast of Curaçao, including 10 pocket beaches (bokas) and 3 inland bays that are used as nesting and foraging sites for threatened sea turtle species as *Dermochelys coriacea* and *Eretmochelys imbricata*. There is also a breeding colony of more than 500 individuals of Least Tern. Moreover, the northwestern coast of Curaçao locally harbours a fringing coral reef, characterized by more than 50% coral cover and the presence of such critically endangered coral species as *Acropora palmata* and *Acropora cervicornis* as well as endangered fish species like the *Epinephelus itajara*. Some of the caves in the area were used for spiritual rituals in the past, and Indian drawings can be found estimated to be more than 5,000 years old. Numerous manmade dams in the area retain freshwater for several months after the wet season has passed. Subterranean groundwater reservoirs in turn sustain local vegetation types year-round which are used by several bird species, pollinating bats and mammals to survive during Curaçao's dry season. Ramsar Site no. 2119. Most Recent RIS information: 2013.

Oostelijke Vechtplassen

Site number: 1,275 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Utrecht and Noord-Holland

Area: 6,474.8 ha | Coordinates: 52°12'N 05°06'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of an extensive area of permanent freshwater shallow lakes, marshes and canals characterized by fenland, reedbeds and wet meadows surrounded by swamp forests. The boundaries of the Site have been adjusted to those of the Natura 2000 site, with some residential areas and the Trekpaten recreational area excluded. The high turbidity of the water bodies prevents the development of submerged vegetation; however, water management measures have considerably improved the water quality. The Site is of international importance for providing refuge to large number of rare and endangered species of mushrooms, mosses, plants, molluscs, insects, fish, birds and mammals. It regularly supports more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds and more than 1% of the individuals of the North-West and Central European populations of Northern shoveler and purple heron. Since 2010 otters have again been breeding on the Site. The main human activities include boating, commercial fisheries, water management, tourism and farming. The Site is threatened by drainage and nutrient pollution from the surrounding farmland, by reed harvesting activities, and by recreational navigation.

Oosterschelde

Site number: 354 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Zeeland

Area: 36,978 ha | Coordinates: 51°37'N 03°56'E | Designation dates: 04-03-1987

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Oosterschelde. 03/04/87; Zeeland; 36,978 ha; 051°33'N 004°00'E. Natura 2000 (SPA/SAC), National Park. The former Oosterschelde en Markiezaat Ramsar Site was in 2014 divided into two Ramsar Sites, the larger Oosterschelde and the smaller Markiezaat, following Natura 2000 boundaries. This led to an increase in their combined area of 810 ha. Oosterschelde, a large area of intertidal waters with mudflats, is an important component of the West Palearctic Flyway, with international importance due to the wintering, staging and breeding of a large number of waterbirds there. The Site also supports threatened birds such as the Sandwich tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*), Eurasian spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) and avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*), and is also an important spawning ground for many fish species including garpike (*Belone belone*), sole (*Solea solea*) and plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*). In addition, European critically endangered aquatic mammals such as the harbour porpoise and harbour seal regularly use the Site. The marshland plays an important role in flood mitigation. Human activities are related to tourism and the fishing and shellfish industries. Potential threats to the ecological character of this wetland include the disturbance of birds by recreational activities and a reduction in the tidal volume and flow speed caused by the construction of dykes, dams and barriers. Ramsar site no. 354. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Oostvaardersplassen

Site number: 427 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Flevoland
Area: 5,477 ha | Coordinates: 52°27'N 05°21'E | Designation dates: 02-06-1989
[View Site details in RSJS](#)

Oostvaardersplassen. 02/06/89; Flevoland; 5,477 ha; 52°26'N 05°21'E. Natura 2000 (SPA). The Site is an extensive area of shallow lakes, pools, marshes, reedbeds, Salix woodland and grassland within seasonally flooded agricultural land on the shore of the Markermeer. The Ramsar Site boundary has been aligned with the Natura 2000 site boundary, and dikes with roads have been excluded, resulting in a reduction of 28 ha in the area covered. The Site is of international importance for the biological diversity of the Atlantic biogeographic region. It supports threatened species of breeding birds such as spotted crane (*Porzana porzana*) and little bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*). It also regularly supports more than 30,000 wintering waterbirds and more than 1% of the individuals of the north-west european population of gadwall (*Anas strepera*) and tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*). Otters have also been observed. The Site plays an important role in flood regulation. Land use is dedicated to water management and tourism. There are a visitors' centre and observation hides. The main threat to the Site is bird disturbance from recreation activities. Ramsar Site no. 427. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Oudegaasterbrekken, Fluessen en omgeving

Site number: 1,243 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Province of Friesland
Area: 3,053.9 ha | Coordinates: 52°57'N 05°33'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000
[View Site details in RSJS](#)

The Ramsar Sites Oudegaasterbrekken en omgeving (Site number 1276) and Fluessen / Vogelhoek / Morra (Site number 1243) have been combined in one Ramsar Site following Natura 2000 boundaries. This combination has resulted in an increase of 170 ha. The Site is a complex of freshwater lakes, surrounded by seasonally flooded agricultural land, reed beds, pastures and peat polders located in the River Rhine catchment area, south-west of the city of Sneek. The Site regularly supports more than 1% of the individuals of the population of barnacle goose, as well as more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds. The Site is also a very important feeding and resting area for European threatened species such as spotted crane, smew and ruff. The lakes act as water storage reservoirs providing water for irrigation during summer. The polders are intensively used for agriculture. Other human activities include commercial fisheries, recreation and boating, water management, conservation and research. Main threats to the ecological character of the Site are nutrient pollution and pressures from tourism. A management plan for the site is currently under preparation.

Rif-Sint Marie

Site number: 2,120 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Curaçao Government
Area: 667 ha | Coordinates: 12°12'N 69°03'W | Designation dates: 05-02-2013
[View Site details in RSJS](#)

Rif-Sint Marie. 05/02/2013. Curaçao; 667 ha; 12°12'16"N 069°03'16"W. Conservation Area, Important Bird Area. The area of Rif-Sint Marie is relatively undisturbed and undeveloped and comprises a salt marsh surrounded by mud flats, shrub land, and forests. The marsh is a strategic feeding habitat for flamingos and several waterbirds. The coral reef of Rif-Sint Marie is well developed and shelters several threatened coral species such as *Acropora palmata* and *Acropora cervicornis*, as well as such endangered turtle species as *Dermochelys coriacea* and *Eretmochelys imbricata* and threatened fishes like Goliath grouper *Epinephelus itajara*. Dense thickets of Elkhorn coral sustain major ecological processes such as gross community calcification and nitrogen fixation; dense populations of this branching species dissipate wave energy and thus protect the coast. The area is currently used for recreational purposes like hiking, biking and guided eco-tours. The major threats to the site are uncontrolled access of visitors with dogs disturbing flamingos and potentially unwise development of touristic infrastructures in the surrounding area. Ramsar Site no. 2120. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Rottige Meenthe en Brandemeer

Site number: 1,277 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Friesland
Area: 1,369 ha | Coordinates: 52°50'N 05°54'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000
[View Site details in RSJS](#)

Rottige Meenthe en Brandemeer. 29/08/00; Friesland; 1,369 ha; 52°51'N 05°53'E; Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC). The boundary of the Ramsar Site has been aligned with the boundary of the Natura 2000 site, resulting in the addition of the Brandemeer Nature Reserve and an increase in area of 234 ha. The Site is an open landscape of seasonally flooded agricultural land with small ponds and canals made by peat excavations in the past. The area lies downstream of the small Linde and Tjonger rivers, and it is rich in wet grasslands and heath, peatland, reed marshes and bog woodland characterized by alder and birch trees. The Site is important for nationally endangered bird species such as the great bittern and great reed warbler, mammals such as the European otter, and fish. In addition, it supports vulnerable Sphagnum moss species and endangered vascular plants such as fen orchid. Land use within the Site includes recreation and tourism, road infrastructure, commercial fisheries, reed cutting, water management, conservation and research. Factors which might adversely affect it are tourism, drainage of surrounding farmlands and eutrophication. Ramsar Site no.1277. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Sneekermeergebied

Site number: 1,250 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Friesland
Area: 2,300 ha | Coordinates: 53°01'N 05°46'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sneekermeer / Goengarijsterpoelen / Terkaplesterpoelen and Akmarijp. 29/08/00. Friesland. 2,300 ha. 53°01'N 005°46'E. SPA. A complex of freshwater lakes, originated from peat extraction activities, and adjoining marshlands and wet meadows. It has been designated as a Ramsar site for its importance for waterbirds - it hosts more than 1% of the respective biogeographic populations of the Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, the White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*, and the Wigeon *Anas penelope*. It serves as a drain for the surrounding polders and surplus water is discharged into the Wadden Sea. Part of the water is used for irrigation. Main human uses comprise boating (ca. 1,800 boat docking places), commercial fisheries, tourism, and farming. The most significant threat posed on the site is drainage. Ramsar site no. 1250. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

Veerse Meer

Site number: 1,251 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Zeeland
Area: 2,539 ha | Coordinates: 51°33'N 03°43'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Veerse Meer. 29/08/00; Zeeland; 2,539 ha; 51°32'N 003°44'E. Natura 2000 (SPA). Formerly part of the Oosterschelde estuary (closed in 1961), the Site is now a 20km-long stagnant brackish lake with sandbanks and small islands, surrounded by wet meadows, improved grasslands, arable lands and some wood plantations. The Ramsar Site boundary was aligned with the Natura 2000 site in 2014; farmland and the dyke separating the western end of the lake from the North Sea were excluded. Veerse Meer hosts significant concentrations of waterbirds (with average peaks of nearly 38,000 between 2005/2006 and 2009/2010) and provides refuge to more than 1% of the biogeographic population of Eurasian wigeon (*Anas Penelope*). The lake acts as a storage basin for surplus water pumped from the surrounding polders until it is discharged into the Oosterschelde. Human uses include commercial fishing, farming, tourism and boating. The Site is threatened by nutrient pollution causing eutrophication, and by recreational activities and the Midden-Zeeland airport which cause disturbance to birds. In 2004 a sluice was constructed in the Zandkreekdam, which separates the eastern end of the lake from the Oosterschelde, to allow more natural water management and improvement of the water quality. Ramsar site no. 1251. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Veluwerandmeren

Site number: 1,242 | Country: Netherlands
| Administrative region: The site is located between the provinces of Flevoland, Gelderland and Overijssel.
Area: 6,123.5 ha | Coordinates: 52°26'N 05°44'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The three Ramsar Sites "Drontermeer" (former Site no.1242), "Veluwemeer" (former Site no. 1278) and "Wolderwijd en Nuldernauw" (former Site no. 1281) were combined in 2015 into a single Ramsar Site following the borders of Natura 2000 site "Veluwerandmeren". This has resulted in an overall increase of 14 ha. The new Site is formed by three lakes situated between the dikes of the Flevoland polder and the mainland. It regularly supports more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds and more than 1% of the of NW European populations of tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*), mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) and red-crested pochard (*Netta rufina*). The Site also supports threatened species of plants, mosses, mushrooms, molluscs and fish, which are important for maintaining the biodiversity of the Atlantic biogeographic region. In addition it maintains the hydrological balance of the region and is an important fresh water reservoir during periods of drought. Land use is dedicated to commercial fisheries, sand extraction, water management, recreation and tourism, shipping traffic, conservation and research. The main factors adversely affecting the Site's ecological character include the extension and deepening of the shipping lane, impacts of the extraction industry, pollution, eutrophication and disturbance from recreation activities.

Voordelta

Site number: 1,279 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Zeeland and Zuid-Holland

Area: 92,271 ha | Coordinates: 51°45'N 03°41'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Voordelta. 29/08/00; Zeeland, Zuid-Holland; 92,271 ha; 051°43'N 003°35'E; Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC). The Ramsar Site boundary has been aligned with the Natura 2000 site, resulting in an increase of 3,502 ha in its area. The Site is an extensive coastal wetland in the North Sea, characterized by shallow sandbanks, mudflats, salt meadows and embryonic dunes. Its high food productivity, caused by the increased nutrient supply from the rivers Rhine and Meuse, attracts an outstanding range of species that depend on it. Threatened birds such as the Sandwich tern, Eurasian spoonbill and avocet use the Site during migration and winter, as do more than 1% of the population of northern pintail and sanderling. The shallow mudflats are a very important spawning and nursery ground for migratory fish such as river lamprey and allis shad. Moreover, common seal and grey seal regularly use the Site. The main human uses include intensive aquaculture and shellfish fishing, angling, boating, recreation and tourism. All these uses put pressure on its ecological character, as do other potential threats such as the disturbance of birds by aircraft, non-industrial pollution, construction work on dykes and dams, extraction activities and reclamation projects. The management plan for the Natura 2000 site has been approved. Ramsar Site no. 1279. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Voornes Duin

Site number: 1,280 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Zuid-Holland

Area: 1,432 ha | Coordinates: 51°54'N 04°04'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Voornes Duin. 29/08/00; Zuid-Holland; 1,432 ha; 051°53'N 04°03'E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC). The Site represents the least damaged dune system of the Netherlands. It is located between Oostvoorne and Harlingvliet, just 20 km south of the capital The Hague. The Ramsar boundary has been adjusted to the Natura 2000 site, including the addition of a new area of 45 ha. The area includes two lakes – Breedewater and Quackjeswater – and mesotrophic dune slacks surrounded by alder woodland and wet dune valleys. The Site supports rich vegetation including endangered plant species such as water germander and fen orchid, and is of particular importance for many breeding birds such as the Eurasian spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) and great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). The dunes play an important role in shoreline stabilization and water purification. Land use is dedicated to water management, tourism, conservation and research. The main factors adversely affecting the Site's ecological character come from the surrounding area: the construction of a harbour and an industrial area will influence the salt spray and dynamics of shifting dunes. Moreover, the partial opening of the sluices in Haringvliet dam will also influence the hydrology of the Site. Ramsar site no. 1280. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Wadden Sea

Site number: 289 | Country: Netherlands

| Administrative region: Provinces of Groningen, Friesland, Noord Holland

Area: 271,023.3 ha | Coordinates: 53°18'N 06°16'E | Designation dates: 02-05-1984

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a marine and coastal wetland in the Wadden Sea, between the mainland and barrier islands, consisting of extensive tidal mudflats, salt marshes, wet meadows, reclaimed polders, sand banks, and dune systems. The Ramsar Site boundary has been adjusted to follow the Natura 2000 boundary, and the former Ramsar Sites Griend (former Site no. 196) and Boschplaat (former Site no. 195) as well as 750 ha of the nature development area Friesland Buitendijks have been included within the Wadden Sea Ramsar Site. These changes have together resulted in an area increase of over 5,000 ha. Waddenzee is internationally important for many threatened species such as avocet and Sandwich tern, as well as for more than 20,000 wintering migratory birds. In addition, more than 5,000 individuals of harbour seal regularly use the site. The coastal wetland plays an important role in flood regulation, shoreline stabilization and sediment trapping. The main activities within the Site are commercial fisheries, sand, clay, shell and gravel extraction, oil and gas exploitation, wind turbine electricity generation and military training. All these activities are potential threats to its ecological character. The management plan was updated in 2010.

Weerribben

Site number: 193 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Overijssel
Area: 3,329 ha | Coordinates: 52°47'N 05°57'E | Designation dates: 23-05-1980
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Weerribben. 23/05/80. Overijssel; 3,329 ha; 052°47'N 05°55'E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC), National Park. The Ramsar Site boundary has been adjusted to the Natura 2000 site, resulting in the addition of an area of 790 ha. The Site is a low-lying peatland formed by bogs, marshland, reedbeds, wet meadows, pools, channels, heathland, and woodland. It is an important breeding area for numerous species of endangered waterbirds including bittern, purple heron and black tern. It also supports notable species of plants, fish and butterflies. European otter have been reintroduced since 2002 and healthy and expanding populations have developed. The Site is part of the catchment area of the river Rhine and it plays an important role in flood regulation and groundwater recharge. Human activities include farming, reed cutting, commercial fisheries, angling and other recreation activities, as well as water management. Potential threats to its ecological character include drainage, eutrophication, pollution and animal disturbance caused by recreational activities. There is a visitors' centre at the site and biodiversity monitoring activities are carried out by the Dutch Bird Research Organisation. Ramsar Site no. 193. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Westerschelde & Saeftinghe

Site number: 748 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Zeeland
Area: 43,647 ha | Coordinates: 51°23'N 03°56'E | Designation dates: 09-04-1995
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Westerschelde & Saeftinghe. 04/09/95; Zeeland; 43,647 ha; 051°22'N 003°48'E; Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC). The boundary of the 'Westerschelde en Verdrongen Land van Saeftinge' Ramsar Site was aligned with the Natura 2000 site in 2014 and renamed to reflect the Natura 2000 site name. Westerschelde & Saeftinghe covers the entire estuary of the River Scheldestretching stretching 60 km from the border with Belgium to the North Sea. The Site is one of the largest and most intact examples of Atlantic salt marshes in Europe. The extensive mudflats and sandbanks regularly support more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds and more than 1% of the respective biogeographic populations of 18 bird species, as well as many other endangered breeding birds such as the Kentish plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) and Sandwich tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*). In addition, the mudflats support endangered molluscs, and the tidal waters are important spawning grounds for migratory fish including sea lamprey and twaite shad (*Alosa fallax*). The harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*) regularly uses the Site. Land use is dedicated to farming, birdwatching, tourism, commercial fisheries, shipping, conservation and research. The main threats to the ecological character of the Site are posed by aquaculture, industrialization, urbanization, the extension of harbours, dredging and canalization, the construction of wind farms, pollution and eutrophication. Ramsar site no. 748. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Wieden

Site number: 1,241 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Province of Overijssel
Area: 9,039.7 ha | Coordinates: 52°42'N 06°04'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site (previously "De Wieden") is characterized by shallow freshwater lakes, reed beds, fens, wet meadows, transition mires, quaking bogs, forested peatland and numerous canals created through peat extraction activities in the 18th and 19th centuries. The Ramsar Site boundary has been adjusted to that of the Natura 2000 site. Some wetlands have been included while some agricultural land, residential and recreational areas have been excluded. Together, Wieden and the adjoining Weerribben (Ramsar Site no. 193) form the largest peat swamp of its kind in Western Europe. The Site regularly supports more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds and is also a refuge for more than 1% of the biogeographic populations of three waterbird species. It also supports notable species of plants, fish and butterflies. There is a healthy otter population which was reintroduced in 2002. The lakes act as water storage reservoirs during the summer and provide water for irrigation. The main human activities relate to tourism, angling, boating, commercial fisheries, farming and reed harvesting. The main threats to the Site derive from drainage and nutrient pollution from intensive farming in the surrounding polders.

Zoommeer

Site number: 1,253 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Provinces of Noord-Brabant and Zeeland

Area: 1,171 ha | Coordinates: 51°30'N 04°13'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000

[View Site details in RSJS](#)

The Site is a stagnant freshwater lake which is separated from the Oosterschelde estuary by a dam constructed in 1986. It forms a hydrological unit with Ramsar Site Krammer-Volkerak (Site no. 747) through the Rhine-Schelde canal. The Ramsar Site boundary has been adjusted to the Natura 2000 boundaries and the Molenplaat area, although it is not included under Natura 2000, has been maintained within the Ramsar Site. Recreational land and a dike have been excluded. The wetland is in the process of changing from a marine tidal system into a stagnant freshwater lake resulting in changes in the flora and fauna composition. The Site is of international importance for threatened breeding waterbirds such as the Mediterranean gull, common tern and avocet. It also supports more than 1% of the individuals of the North-West European population of the gadwall. The primary human activities relate to boating, commercial fisheries, shipping traffic, tourism, dairy farming and water management. The main threats affecting the ecological character of the Site include non-industrial pollution leading to an increase in eutrophication and intensive livestock grazing.

Zuidlaardermeergebied

Site number: 1,282 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Groningen, Drenthe

Area: 2,100 ha | Coordinates: 53°09'N 06°41'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000

[View Site details in RSJS](#)

Zuidlaardermeergebied. 29/08/00. Groningen, Drenthe. 2,100 ha. 53°08'N 006°41'E. SPA. A freshwater lake with reedbeds and extensive area of wet grasslands. Zuidlaardermeer is of natural origin, with average depth of 1m, and one of the largest lakes in the provinces of Groningen and Drenthe. The river Hunze flows through the lake. Until recently water from the Lake IJsselmeer has been let in to keep summer water levels high. The site has been awarded Ramsar status for supporting more than 1% of the biogeographical populations of 3 waterbird species - Bewick's Swan *Cygnus bewickii* (1.3%), White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* (2%), and Wigeon *Anas penelope* (1.1%). Main human uses include commercial fisheries, water management, boating, farming, tourism and leisure activities. The site is threatened by non-industrial pollution discharge, drainage, disturbance and persecution of birds. More than half of the site is owned by conservation organizations (Groningen Landschap and Staatbosbeheer) and management is provided by Groningen Landschap in accordance with a management plan. Ramsar site no. 1282. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

Zwanewater en Pettemerduinen

Site number: 400 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Province of Noord-Holland

Area: 770.3 ha | Coordinates: 52°48'N 04°41'E | Designation dates: 15-06-1988

[View Site details in RSJS](#)

Zwanewater en Pettemerduinen is a coastal wetland dominated by humid dune-slacks, marshes, woodland and two connected freshwater lakes, which are among the largest of their kind in Europe. The Ramsar Site name and boundary have been adjusted to the proposed Natura 2000 site. Residential land has been excluded while a natural area in the south has been added, resulting in an increase in the area of 175 hectares. These ecosystems support a rich and vulnerable vegetation as well as endangered species of waterbirds such as the Eurasian bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, Eurasian spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* and lesser white-fronted goose *Anser erythropus*. The Site is an integral part of the North Sea dunes which protect the Netherlands against the North Sea. Land use is dedicated to tourism, military training, water management, dams, reservoirs and hydro-electric generation. Two birdwatching hides are located at the Site, and a national monitoring programme is coordinated by the Dutch Bird Research Organisation. The military training puts pressure on the ecological character of the Site and causes bird disturbance.

Zwarte Meer

Site number: 749 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Flevoland & Overijssel

Area: 2,162 ha | Coordinates: 52°38'N 05°57'E | Designation dates: 04-09-1995

[View Site details in RSJS](#)

Zwarte Meer. 04/09/95; Overijssel, Flevoland; 2,162 ha; 52°38'N 05°58'E; Natura 2000 (SAC, SPA). The Site comprises a large shallow lake with extensive reed marshes, floodplains, and a human-made island (Vogeleiland). The Ramsar Site boundary was adjusted in 2014 to reflect the Natura 2000 site, while Noordoostpolder dike was excluded. It is an internationally important area for wintering and foraging waterbirds such as purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*) and Savi's warbler (*Locustella luscinioides*). In addition, the Site supports endangered species of mosses and plants which are important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Atlantic biogeographic region. It plays an important role in flood control, and sediment and nutrient retention. Human activities include commercial fishing, shipping, nautical sports and water management. The main threats to the Site's ecological character derive from the construction of dykes and dams, from reed cutting and nutrient pollution. Ramsar site no. 749. Most recent RIS information: 2013.