
Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

(RIS) – 2009-2012 version

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

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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:

Sneekermeergebied (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. The average peak number

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:

The Ramsar site 'Sneekermeer, Goengarijsterpoelen, Terkaplesterpoelen en Akmarijp' has also been designated as the European Natura 2000-site 'Sneekermeergebied'. For this RIS-version, the new Ramsar site boundary has therefore been adjusted to the Natura 2000- boundary, while the name for the Natura 2000-site has been adopted.

Some recreational terrains and residential areas have been excluded or exclavated from the Ramsar site. In total this new boundary resulted in a decrease of -31,9 ha.

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

53°01'N - 05°46'E

9. General location:

Province of Friesland, ca. 5 km east of Sneek part of municipality Súdwest Fryslân (population 82.634 per 1-1-2012; source CBS, Netherlands Statistics).

10. Elevation: (min & max)

NAP -2 / -1 m

11. Area:

2278,7 ha

12. General overview of the site:

The Sneekermeergebied is an open landscape characterised by larger and smaller sized fresh water lakes, which are surrounded with quays, reed beds, marches and grassland polders. The site has several island polders and is especially important for water birds.

13. Ramsar Criteria:

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

The Ramsar site Sneekermeergebied, has been designated under Natura 2000 as well. Natura 2000 is the centrepiece of EU nature & biodiversity policy. It is an EUwide 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 Sneekermeergebied applies to both and the justification for the application of each Ramsar criterion below, greatly refers to its designation as a SAC and SPA.

Justification criterion 2

The table below show Annex II species (HD) and Annex I species (BD) for which the site has been designated as a SAC and SPA respectively, 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 table.

*Species of Annex II of the European Habitat Directive (HD) and Annex I of the European Bird Directive for which the site has been designated as a SAC and SPA respectively, as well as species of Annex IV, V (HD) and some threatened species of the National Red Lists (- = Not Applicable; * = priority species). Year of adoption of the National Red Lists in parentheses.*

Species(group)	Species code	HD Annex	BD Annex	National RL category
Vascular plants				(2004)
Bog Asphodel <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	-	-	-	EN
Meadow Thistle <i>Cirsium dissectum</i>	-	-	-	VU
Mammals				(2009)
Pond Bat <i>Myotis dasycneme</i>	H1318	II, VI	-	LC
*Root Vole <i>Microtus oeconomus arenicola</i>	H1340	II, VI	-	VU
Non-breeding birds				
Barnacle Goose <i>Branta leucopsis</i>	A045	-	I	-
Eurasian Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	A140	-	I	-
Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	A151	-	I	-
Breeding birds				(2004)
Spotted Crake <i>Porzana porzana</i>	A119	-	I	VU
Corn Crake <i>Crex crex</i>	A122	-	I	VU
Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	A151	-	I	CR

Justification criterion 3

The Sneekermeergebied is designated as a Natura 2000 site (both SAC and 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 tables 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		
Pink-footed Goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	A040	-
White-fronted Goose <i>Anser albifrons</i>	A041	-

Eurasian Wigeon <i>Anas [Mareca] penelope</i> ,	A050	-
Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i> ,	A051	-
Common Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> ,	A052	-
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	A053	-
Northern Shoveler <i>Anas chrypeata</i> ,	A056	-
Common Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	A125	-
Northern Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	A142	-
Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>	A156	-
Eurasian Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> ,	A160	-
Breeding birds		
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	A295	LC

Justification criterion 4

The site is of particular importance for many breeding and non-breeding bird species (see criterion 2, 3 and 6), of which several species gather in great numbers in relatively small areas like roosting Barnacle Geese *Branta leucopsis*.

Justification criterion 5

Though not designated for criterion 5, the site regularly supports more than 20,000 wintering water birds: the average peak number was 39.302 for the period 2005/2006-2009/2010, which is less than the peak number of 195.086 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
Shoveler	<i>Anas chrypeata</i>	NB	NW/Central Europe	400	460	1.2
Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	NB	W. Siberia/ NW-NE Europe	15000	16631	1.1
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	NB	NW-Europe	600	611	1.0
Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	NB	NW-Siberia/NE-Europe	10000	72956	7.3
Barnacle Goose ¹	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	NB	Russia/ Netherlands	4200	64269	15.3
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	NB	W-Europe/W-Africa	1700	1739	1.0
¹ Roosting						

Compared to the period of 1992-98 (previous updated version) the species Shoveler *Anas chrypeata* (NB), Gadwall *Anas strepera* (NB) and Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* (NB) now also meet the 1%-threshold.

15. Biogeography:

a) biogeographic region:

The Ramsar site belongs to the Atlantic biogeographical 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 site has been formed by peat digging and land reclamations. The water level is kept at NAP - 0,50 m. Water depth varies between 1 and 2 meters. Several parts of the site are still a little elevated compared to its surrounding. This makes that water can run off naturally to the surrounding area in summertime.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

The site belongs to the river Rhine catchment area of 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 climates according to Köppen are rainy (Cbf) and montane (EH).

18. Hydrological values:

Superfluous water from the surrounding polders is pumped into this lake system and subsequently discharged into the Waddenzee. Part of this water originates from river Rhine which is directed to agricultural polders to compensate for water shortage during summer.

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:

O4Tp

20. General ecological features:

The Sneekermeer has an open landscape characterised by larger and smaller sized fresh water lakes, which are surrounded with quays, reed borders, marches and grassland polders. The site has several island polders. The area exists for approx. 54% out of permanent freshwater, 6% permanent freshwater marshes and some 40% wet grassland. The site is especially important for moulting, resting and breeding of water birds.

A plant community of European interest that occurs in the site is: *Pallavicinio-sphagnetum*,

The ecosystem services mainly refer to:

- the wetlands potential for water recreation on water and on land;
- the ability to store fresh water (especially i.r.t. potential impacts of climate change) to be drained into the IJsselmeer;
- the ability for agriculture to take fresh water in (for irrigation or livestock drinking water) or drain it off.

21. Noteworthy flora:

Most noteworthy flora is listed under no. 14.

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Most noteworthy fauna is listed under no. 14.

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 partly owned by Staatsbosbeheer (957 ha); the remainder is state (Dienst der Domeinen, Ministerie van Financiën) and private ownership.

b) in the surrounding area:

Several private owners.

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:

Boating 55%, Tourism and leisure 18%, Farming 10%, Commercial fisheries 40%, Conservation and research 40%, Water management 100%.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Agriculture is the main- land-use in the surrounding of the site. On a broader scale, the site belongs to the river Rhine catchment area where the general land use is forestry, pasture farming, arable farming and inproductive land (high mountains).

26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects: (A = serious threat covering large part of the area; B = moderate threat or local threat; C = minor threat):

a) within the Ramsar site:

- Drainage (B - intensive farming in surrounding polders);
- Recreation/ tourism (B -);
- Pollution (B - not industrial discharge, but eutrophication from Rhine water).
- Peat digging
- Land reclamations

b) in the surrounding area:

- Drainage (B - intensive farming in surrounding polders).
- Construction (C - Increase of recreational capacity of harbours in the region and potential increase of boating).

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, 2000)
- Special Area of Conservation (Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC)
- Natura 2000-site

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

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 Natura2000. The process for the Natura2000 management plan has been started.

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 others the Sneekermeergebied).

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

Nothing particular.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

See 25. Current land use. Number of visitors not known, boats c. 1800 landing places.

32. Jurisdiction:

Municipalities Boarnsterhim, Wymbritseradiel, Sneek and Skasterlan. Functional jurisdiction (conservation purposes): Ministry of Economic Affairs.

33. Management authority:

Main management authorities:

- Staatsbosbeheer, P.O. Box 1300, 3970 BH Driebergen, the Netherlands, tel. +31 (0)30-6926111.
- It Fryske Gea, P.O. Box 3, 9244 ZN Beetsterzwaag, tel. +31 (0)512 38 14 48.

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 EL&I, 2010. Besluit Natura 2000-gebied Sneekermeergebied.
 - 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.
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