

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

NOTE: It is important that you read the accompanying *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document before completing this form.

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

18-02-2003

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DD	MM	YY

Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

the Netherlands

3. Name of wetland: Zuidlaardermeergebied

4. Geographical coordinates: 53°08'N - 06°41'E

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) NAP 0 – 1 m

6. Area: (in hectares) 2,100

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

A freshwater lake, located southeast of the city of Groningen, with reedbeds and an extensive area of wet pastures. The latter are important as feeding area for geese. The lake is used as roost.

8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document.)

marine-coastal: A . B . C . D . E . F . G . H . I . J . K

inland: L . M . N . **O** . P . Q . R . Sp . Ss .

 Tp . Ts

 . U . Va . Vt . W . Xf . Xp . Y . Zg . Zk

man-made: 1 . 2 . 3 . **4** . 5 . 6 . 7 . 8 . 9

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant: O4

9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12, next page.)

1 . 2 . 3 . 4 . 5 . **6** . 7 . 8

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 6

10. Map of site included? Please tick *yes* -or- *no*

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

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

National Reference Centre for Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries

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12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page. (Please refer to Annex II in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document).

Criterion 6: Average peak numbers of species meeting the 1% threshold:

Species	Biogeographical population	1% Biogeogr. Population	% at site	Period
<i>Cygnus bewickii</i>	W. Siberia/ NE-NW. Europe	170	1,3%	1993-97
<i>Anser albifrons</i>	NW. Siberia/ NW-NE. Europe	6000	2,0%	1993-97

<i>Anas [Mareca] penelope</i>	W. Siberia/ NW-NE. Europe	12500	1,1%	1993-97
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13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

On the border of the provinces of Groningen and Drenthe, ca. 15 km south-east of Groningen city.

14. Physical features: (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth

water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

Lake Zuidlaardermeer is of natural origin and one of the largest lakes in the provinces Groningen and Drenthe. The Hunze flows through the lake. The average depth of the lake is 1 meter. The water level is NAP + 0,62 m in summer and NAP + 0,42 in winter. Until recently water from the lake IJsselmeer was let in to keep the high water level in summer.

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

The river Hunze (length about 40 km) drains into lake Zuidlaardermeer. The superfluous water is eventually discharged in the Wadden Sea through various canals and the Lauwersmeer.

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

Permanent freshwater lakes 31%, Wet grassland 36%, Drained grassland/ rough grassy vegetation 30%.

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

Plant communities of European interest: *Ranunculo fluitantis-Potametum perfoliati*; *Cicuto-Caricetum pseudocyperi*;

Mushroom species on the Red List: *Tricholoma fulvum*;

Moss species on the Red List: *Calliergon giganteum*.

18. Noteworthy fauna: (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

Note: Species included on Annex II of the EC Habitats Directive and bird species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive have been indicated with an asterisk. In addition to those waterbirds listed under point 12, all waterbirds are mentioned occurring in numbers between 0,1 and 1,0% of their respective biogeographical populations Other non-waterbird species are included on the national Red List for the species group concerned.

Freshwater molluscs: *Viviparus viviparus*; *Marstoniopsis scholtzii*; *Lithoglophus naticoides*; *Sphaerium rivicola*; Freshwater fishes: *River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*; *Bitterling *Rhodeus sericeus amarus*; *Weatherfish *Misgurnus fossilis*; Orfe *Leuciscus idus*;

Birds: (breeding): *Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, *Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*, Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*; (non-breeding): *Bewick's Swan *Cygnus bewickii*, White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*, Eurasian Wigeon *Anas [Mareca] penelope*, *Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*.

19. Social and cultural values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

See 21. Current land use.

20. Land tenure/ownership of: (a) site (b) surrounding area

The site is partly owned by the Groninger Landschap (889 ha) and Staatsbosbeheer (338 ha); the remainder is state (Dienst der Domeinen, Ministerie van Financiën) and private ownership.

Surrounding area: several private owners.

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

Site: Boating 30%, Tourism and leisure 40%, Residential (scattered) 1%, Extractive operations 1%, Farming 50%, Commercial fisheries 30%, Conservation and research 63%, Water management 100%, Reed cutting 1%.

Surroundings/ catchment: agriculture.

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

(b) around the site

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

Disturbance to birds (C - persecution of birds of prey); Drainage (B - drainage to improve dairy farming); Recreation/ tourism (C - disturbance of waterbirds in autumn); Pollution (not Industrial discharge) (B - eutrophication of lake water).

Around the site: plans to increase recreation facilities.

23. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

Special Protection Area (Birds Directive 79/409/EEC, 2000, 2100 ha); Wetland of International Importance (2000, 2100 ha). The Groninger Landschap has compiled a management plan (which is updated on a regular basis) that focusses on habitats and species conservation.

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

Dredging of sediments to improve water quality.

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

Most research and monitoring is carried out by the Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment (RIZA, www.riza.nl) of the Ministry of Transport, Public works and Watermanagement. The research is organised in four topics: *Wetland development and restoration*: research and advice on the restoration of wetlands to their natural state; *Water systems*: research and advice on the integrated management of inland waters; *Water pollution control*: research and advice on waste water treatment and emission levels; *Information and measurement technology*: collection and processing of data and research in specialist laboratories. Relevant research is also carried out the Institute for River Research, which is part of the Institute for Hydraulic Engineering (IHE, www.ihe.nl) in Delft, and focuses mainly on floodplain research. The Center for Limnology (NIOO-CL, www.nioo.nl) in Nieuwersluis studies plant-bird interactions in several large freshwater lakes as part of general limnological research programmes. Also regular bird counts.

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

Excursions, hide, information booklet.

27. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

See 21. Current land use. Number of visitors not known.

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment etc.)

Municipalities Haren, Hoogezand-Sappemeer and Tynaarlo. Functional jurisdiction (conservation purposes): Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij.

29. Management authority: (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

Stichting Het Groninger Landschap, Ossenmarkt 9, 9712 NZ Groningen, the Netherlands, tel. +31 50 3135901

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

- Bilt, E. van der & Glastram M. 1995. Hunzevisie. Natuurontwikkeling in het Hunzedal en het Zuidlaardermeergebied. Het Drentse Landschap/ Het Groninger Landschap/ Wereld Natuurfonds, Assen/ Groningen/ Zeist.
 - Osieck E.R. & Borggreve C.A. 1999. National Inventory of Ramsar sites in the Netherlands. IKC Natuurbeheer, Wageningen.
 - van Roomen M.W.J, Boele A., van der Weide M.J.T., van Winden E.A.J, Zoetebier D. 2000. Belangrijke vogelgebieden in Nederland, 1993-97. Actueel overzicht van Europese vogelwaarden in aangewezen en aan te wijzen speciale beschermingszones en andere belangrijke gebieden. SOVON-informatierapport 2000/01. SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland, Beek-Ubbergen.
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