

**Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1  
on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008  
at the 1018th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)<sup>1</sup>*

**Appendix 5: Model plan for annual reports**

**Annual report for the year 2019/2020**

Annual reports should describe the changes that have taken place since the previous year in dynamic terms of management and function and not be limited to basic data. Any new text or map introducing a change in the situation of the area should be attached to the annual report.

State: The Netherlands

Name of the area: Boschplaat

Year of award: 1970

Last renewal: 2020

50 years since the award of European Diploma for Protected Areas

**Central authority concerned:**

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**Authority responsible for its management:**

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<sup>1</sup> As amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2014)2 on 2 July 2014 at the 1204th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies.  
Internet : <http://www.coe.int/cm>

**1. Conditions:** List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

N/A

**2. Recommendations:** List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. *sufficient financial resources need to be available on an ongoing basis in order to safeguard the interests of the Boschplaat's natural environment, especially monitoring, staff, public relations and communication;*

Due to the switch to voluntary bird watchers the quality of observations in the early morning and evening (for example presence of short eared owl) has decreased. At the same time the financial resources for monitoring the area are not steady. In 2020 we luckily were able to have a fulltime monitoring employee during the breeding season, but a year-round fulltime employee is necessary.

2. *measures should be taken to restore the original dynamics in the eastern part of the reserve. The present function of the "Stuifdijk" (artificial sand dike) should be taken into consideration. New insights based on recent scientific research on restoring natural dynamics should be included in the management plan, including the consequences of the current rise in sea levels;*

As mentioned in the last annual report a new future vision for the Boschplaat is drawn up in 2018. In 2020 Staatsbosbeheer, the province of Fryslân and Rijkswaterstaat are working out an agreement to implement the actions mentioned in the plan and to gain adequate financial resources. At this moment a date is not set for starting the actions in the field, but we strive to plan these in 2021/2022.

3. *communication with all those involved in the measures to be taken (which are still being contested locally) requires maximum attention and the deployment of the necessary resources;*

Our voluntary birdwatchers/hosts have received 1219 visitors at the two birdwatchers posts. The birdwatchers were only at their post from 1 june until 13 september. Due to the corona measures there were no birdwatchers from 1 april until 1 june. We also, because of corona, did not actively invite visitors to visit the birdwatchers. Despite de pandemic, there was a strong increase of visitors to the area, by foot, MTB or bike. We made extra efforts to communicate the rules (on the ferry, by flyers and in local media) for cycling on the beach to protect breeding birds and dunes.

A new information panel with more information about the diploma, flora and fauna and the history of the Boschplaat has been placed last autumn.

4. *annual shipping incidents in the North Sea to the north of the Boschplaat are a real concern for both people and the natural environment. Better guarantees of safety with regard to the transport of hazardous substances and oil should be instituted;*

Also in 2020 we still see the effects of the container stranding on the beaches early 2019. Products and plastics are still found. The Dutch Safety Board concluded in june 2020 that there are big risks of a new incident with (container)ships. The advice is to take a more northern route through deeper waters during storms from a south-west direction. This advice is not implemented yet.

5. *the number of motorised vehicles on the beach should be reduced:*

No changes. Annual consultation with beach drivers, province of Fryslân, police and the municipality of Terschelling is taking place with a focus on protection the natural values of the Boschplaat.

**3. Site Management:** List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances,

since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

In 2020 for the first time a group of 40 volunteers from Terschelling worked on the Boschplaat as birdwatchers/host. This positive news spread quickly, and a lot of inhabitants became interested and involved because they know people from their family or neighborhood who are working as voluntary birdwatcher.

The very dry summer on the island resulted in to little fodder for cattle. Because of that Staatsbosbeheer gave the farmers permission to mow a couple of hectares on the Boschplaat. The location chosen was directly next to the path. In advance of the measurements mentioned in the Boschplaatvision 2050, a small areal of mowed grass stayed on the area. This is an experiment to see if the sea during a flood can take away all the mowed grass. In the future, it is necessary to remove the thick grass layer before the dynamics of blowing sand and seawater will affect the area again. After the grass is removed, the water and sand can have a positive effect on the diversity of the Boschplaat. Removing grass out of the area is expensive, this experiment will make clear if nature can handle it itself.

**4. Boundaries:** Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

The survey to exchange land within the Wadden area with Rijkswaterstaat stopped in 2019/2020. This means that no changes will be made towards the area managed by Staatsbosbeheer.

**5. Other information:** List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

A German nature filmer is making shots on the Boschplaat for a documentary about the Dutch nature. The film will be ready in 2021 and can be seen on German channel WDR.

The following sections of the form should only be filled in if your area is in the year before a renewal of its European Diploma for Protected Areas, i.e. year 4 after the award of the European Diploma or year 9 after its renewal.

**6. Natural heritage (general abiotic description: geomorphology, geology and hydrogeology, habitats, flora, fauna, landscape) – State of conservation**

- 6.1. Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropic origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated
- 6.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetational cover; presumed causes
- 6.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating, egg-laying and breeding grounds

**7. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context**

- 7.1. Cultural heritage
  - 7.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage
- 7.2. Socio-economic context
  - 7.2.1. Changes concerning the socio-economic context

**8. Education and scientific interest**

- 8.1. Visitors – Information policy
  - 8.1.1. Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.)
  - 8.1.2. Frequentation by visitors and behavior (number, distribution in time and space)
  - 8.1.3. Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.)
- 8.2. Scientific research
  - 8.2.1. Current or completed research (observation, experimentation, etc.; identification or inventory of the species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention, etc.)
  - 8.2.2. Scientific publications

**9. Site description (vulnerability, protection status, ownership, documentation)**

- 9.1. Changes in legislation or regulations
- 9.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentals, etc.)
- 9.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve)

**10. Site management (management plans, budget and personnel)**

- 10.1. Improvements made
  - 10.1.1. Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; controls of fauna
  - 10.1.2. Protection against the elements (fire, water regime)
  - 10.1.3. Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)
  - 10.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities)
  - 10.1.5. Waste management
  - 10.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems
- 10.2. Management
  - 10.2.1. Administrative department: changes made
  - 10.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made
  - 10.2.3. Internal policing measures
  - 10.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

**11. Influence of the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas**