

**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)^[1]*

Appendix 5: Model plan for annual reports

Annual report for the year 2025

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 and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:
5

Central authority concerned:

Name: Staatsbosbeheer

Address: Postbus 2, 3800 AA Amersfoort

Tel: 030-6926111

Fax: -

e-mail: info@staatsbosbeheer.nl

www: www.staatsbosbeheer.nl

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Staatsbosbeheer

Address: Longway 28

Tel: 06-53669318 / 00316-57572620

e-mail: j.lamers@staatsbosbeheer.nl / r.hougee@staatsbosbeheer.nl

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. communicate the final version of the “Vision for De Boschplaat” to the Council of Europe, together with information about the revised management plan for the diploma-holding and Natura 2000 area, by December 2022;

The final version of the “Vision for de Boschplaat” is send to de Council in 2022. The new Natura 2000 management plan in which the “Vision” should be incorporated, will be made by the Province of Friesland. It is planned for the year 2026/2027. First a new vegetation mapping will be made in 2025, after which a new habitat map will be created. The new N2000 management plan will be based on this new map. In the mean time we have started the preparations for the execution of parts of the vision. Currently we are working on the final design and the tender of the new wash-over and drifting dunes in de sand-dike. We have implemented an new grazing area in the western part of the Boschplaat, the north-side, just south of de ‘stuifdijk’, the man-made sand dike that lies as a barrier between the beach and the salt marsh. This will lead to a more diverse vegetation with less grasses and reed and more flowering plants. The first results are visible! The lease contract is based on Nature Inclusive Farming (“Natuur Inclusieve Landbouw”: NIL), an initiative of the Dutch ministry of agriculture, fisheries and nature (LVVN). With NIL we give farmers land for extensive farming and on the other hand the farmer must implement more extensive management on his own land. This way nature will take advantage in both nature area’s and farmland.

The website for the execution of the Boschplaat Vision is launched this year: www.boschplaat.nl

2. review annually the grazing in De Groede, and adjust its intensity and the boundaries of grazing areas as necessary so as to retain the biodiversity value of this section of De Boschplaat Nature Reserve;

The intensity of grazing in 2025 is as agreed in the contract between Staatsbosbeheer and farmers. Last year the contract has been renewed, two farmers were added to the contract. Staatsbosbeheer has added new terms and conditions about manure accounting to the contract, since there is a huge manure problem for farmers in the Netherlands. They are searching for land to put manure on and also ask us. We will allow farmers to register no more than the minimum amount of nitrogen and phosphate per hectare that is allowed in nature area’s in their administration. That means that only for the cattle which is grazing on the Boschplaat they are allowed to register and amount of manure: the amount of manure the cattle produces in reality on the Boschplaat. This has no influence on the Boschplaat, since the cattle is only eating what grows in the area.

3. assess the requirements for additional financial resources to undertake targeted and time-limited research, monitoring and educational activities;

Breeding bird monitoring was again carried out last year, funded by Staatsbosbeheer Terschelling's regular management funds, even though we receive no compensation for this particular monitoring from the province. Beach-nesting birds on the entire island, including Boschplaat, were monitored, for which a provincial contribution was received. Funding from the Boschplaat vision implementation funds may be available to measure the effects of the measures taken, at least for a defined period. In 2026 the educational project: “The Boschplaat expedition” with all the pupils of the upper 4 classes of the primary school, will take place. This is funded from the communication budget for the implementation of the Boschplaat vision. The costs for deploying volunteer bird watchers are largely covered by the province through Natura 2000 objectives for beach-nesting birds. Final confirmation is not yet available, but it appears the province will be setting aside funds for this purpose for at least the next two years.

4. devise a strategy for the management and control (or eradication) of invasive alien species on De Boschplaat to be included in the future management plan;

We have developed a framework of action in collaboration with the province, the water board, and the municipality to address several invasive exotic species. We use this framework to manage invasive exotic species, including the Boschplaat.

5. maintain contact with all agencies involved in marine accident prevention and, if an incident does occur, with agencies involved in the minimisation of the effects of the accident on De Boschplaat;

No new developments.

6. review the information available to both Dutch and international visitors, stressing and demonstrating the conservation and heritage importance of De Boschplaat.

The new website has been launched: www.boschplaat.nl .

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.

The financial situation according to surveillance and monitoring is still under pressure. Staatsbosbeheer has launched a new business-plan November 2025. In that is stated that we will do only the specific tasks which have financial coverage by the province or ministry of LNNV. Large parts of the supervision and public guidance are not financed through a sustainable way and rely on occasional projects, such as “Wij en Wadvogels” en beach breeding birds-N2000 goals-funds from the province. Funding for bird watchers appears to be covered for the next few years. However, funding for our paid special investigating officers (“buitengewoon opsporings ambtenaar”, BOA) with powers has been minimized. Last year, we reduced this by 0.5 FTE. This is a particular concern for the professional support provided to volunteer bird watchers. Nationally, efforts are being made in negotiations to secure the BOA contribution.

Litter, out of the sea and from underneath eroded dunes, remains a major problem. Yearly many groups of volunteers clean parts of the beach and the Boschplaat.

Invasive species: one location with *Rosa rugosa* is manually monitored em kept short (dug out) by bird watchers.

Last year, we invested extra in removing trees and shrubs from the open dune areas on the island. The northwestern part of Boschplaat, near beach markers 18-20, was also cleared of many *Prunus serotina*, *Betula*, and *Salix repens*.

The verges of many cycle paths and management paths have been mown liberally. This is to make and keep them suitable for rabbits and to implement mitigation measures. This also applies to the verges of the cycle paths on the western part of the Boschplaat and the verge of the management path under the drift dike up to beach marker 21.

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 Boschplaat is subject of annual coastal erosion. Since the eighties almost 450 hectares of the Boschplaat eroded. This is part of the natural dynamics. The Boschplaat vision includes an assessment of whether coastal erosion on the eastern side should be curbed, for example, through replenishment. Rijkswaterstaat (the Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management) is leading this program component. This organization will meet with the State Forestry Service (Staatsbosbeheer), residents, and the municipality on the island to discuss whether action is necessary and what can be done without compromising the natural and dynamic character of the Boschplaat.

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.

In autumn 2024 large mussel beds were discovered along the south coast of the Boschplaat. It would be ideal if this mussel bed were preserved and (naturally) expanded to prevent salt marsh erosion. However, in 2025, this mussel bed has shrunk considerably. No research is being conducted on this specific mussel bed, but it is being monitored using aerial images of the entire Wadden Sea area. We'll keep an eye on it.

A male white-tailed eagle has a permanent roost on the Boschplaat all year round. A female has also been seen regularly. No nest yet. A breeding pair of white-tailed eagles would be a welcome addition to the bird species breeding on the Boschplaat (especially considering the large numbers of barnacle geese, which are considered problematic, especially by farmers. A pair of white-tailed eagles could have a significant impact on that).

There is intensive contact with the local community regarding the implementation of the Boschplaat vision: during the development of the vision in 2017, we visited 300 islanders on-site and gathered their input. In the lead-up to its implementation, which we are currently undertaking, islanders are again being closely involved. A sounding board group of islanders has been established, we are writing articles in various media outlets, islanders are being asked to share their stories about the Boschplaat via social media, we have distributed a flyer about the Boschplaat approach across the island, and a 12-page Boschplaat special issue in the Staatsbosbeheer "Echt Terschelling magazine" is dedicated entirely to the measures. This issue is being delivered door-to-door across the island.

Last year an intern rolled out a moth count network at the two birdwatching posts, a bumblebee count network, and a butterfly count network. She wrote instructions and conducted pilot projects. The birdwatchers will begin conducting these counts in 2026.

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

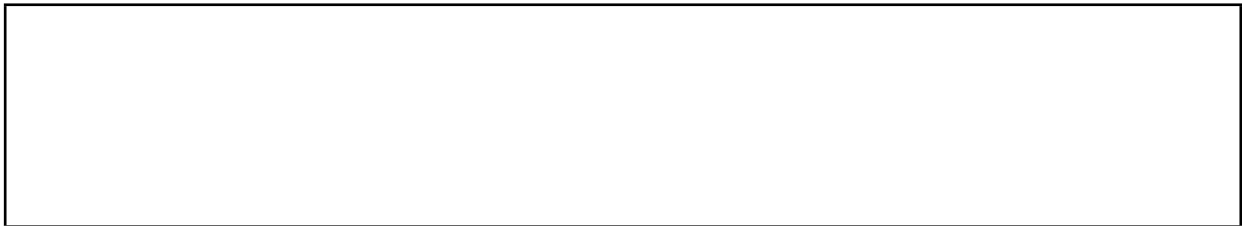
10.2.1. Administrative department: changes made

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



^[1] As amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2014)2 on 2 July 2014 at the 1204th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies.