

**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 2020/2021

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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¹ 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;***

Every year a part of the financial resources for bird watcher comes from the province of Fryslân as part of the protection of beach breeders. 2021 was de last year of this project, but a new request for the next 5-6 years is done. The monitoring of breeding birds on the Boschplaat is done by a part-time ranger with a temporary contract until 2022. A structural employee is on top of the wishlist.

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;***

In 2021 preparations have been made to start with the measures written down in the Boschplaatvision 2050. One of these measures is to make modifications to the Stuifdijk, like creating wash-overs and drifting dunes. The province of Fryslân made available €1,5 million for the next 3 years to develop these plans.

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;***

On the Boschplaat there are two look-out posts with voluntary bird watchers. These birdwatchers were present from the beginning of april until the end of august. Because of Corona only necessary contacts with visitors took place.

We were in good contact with the company that organizes tours with horse-wagons through the area, for example about the route they take near de Koffieboonplaat.

The monitoring of breeding birds on the beach is done by a volunteer. His observations helped us to take adequate measures to protect nesting birds.

A short film is made about the protection of beach breeders: <https://vimeo.com/557079580>

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;***

New rules and legislation according shipping north of the Wadden islands are still point of discussion. During 2021 every now and then products from the container accident with the MSC Zoë wash ashore. In November a remarkable amount of plastic HDPE pellets washed ashore. While writing this report a cleaning action is in preparation. Besides that, also several cleaning actions in corporation with the Waddenvereniging and Stichting the Noordzee took place on the island, also on the Boschplaat.

5. ***the number of motorized 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.

2. **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.

Like in 2020, local farmers mowed +- 30 hectare of the higher salt marshes of the Boschplaat to use this as forage for their cattle. Staatsbosbeheer allowed this in anticipation of the future measures on the Stuifdijk, with more drifting dunes in the future. The effects of blowing sand on nature are better in a low vegetation than in a high vegetation with for example reed. This year, when mowing, extra attention was paid to insects, by leaving many pieces of high vegetation. In this way many different transitions between higher and lower vegetations are left, which led to good breeding opportunities for curlews. This bird is declining on the Netherlands.

3. **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 erosion of the Boschplaat at the eastern end still continues. Every year +- 100-200 meters of the Boschplaat erodes, moving the boundary between Boschplaat and sea in south-western direction. At this moment there is no change expected in the coming years. In the Boschplaatvision 2050 there are plans for a beach/coast nourishment to stop the erosion. These plans need further investigation.

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

The so called Koffieboonplaat at the eastern end of the Boschplaat is an important breeding area for birds like ringed plover and little tern. Every year the protection of the area is adapted to the location where the birds nest. This year the route for hikers from the beach to the wad is changed during the season in response to the location of the breeders. This resulted in a very successful colony of little tern (100+)

A new group of visitors are the ones on so called 'fatbikes', mountainbikes with big wheels that can drive through loose sand. These bikes make it easier for people to visit the Boschplaat and to cycle on the beach. Because these bikes are mostly electric driven, a new group of visitors that are unfamiliar with the area/nature come to the Boschplaat. This results in a slight, but clear increase of disturbance of the breeding area of beach-breeders. Staatsbosbeheer is in contact with users and rental companies to stop further increase of fatbikes and to prevent disturbance of nesting and resting birds during the year.

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

