

**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 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: **Weerribben-Wieden National Park**

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

Award in: 1995 Latest renewal 2021, number of years since renewal: 1

Central authority concerned:

Name:	Staatsbosbeheer	Name:	Natuurmonumenten
Address:	P.O. Box 2, 3800 AA Amersfoort NL	Address:	P.O. Box 9955 1243 ZS 's-Gravenland NL
Tel:	+31 (0)30 6926111	Tel:	+31 (0)35 6559933
Fax:	+31 (0)30 6922978		
e-mail:	h.koenders@staatsbosbeheer.nl s.bonekamp@staatsbosbeheer.nl	e-mail:	J.Bisschops@natuurmonumenten.nl
www:	www.staatsbosbeheer.nl	www:	www.natuurmonumenten.nl

Authority responsible for its management:

Name:	Staatsbosbeheer Team De Weerribben	Natuurmonumenten Team De Wieden
Address:	Wijkweg 2 7954 Rouveen, NL	Veneweg 253 7946 LV Wanneperveen NL
Tel:	+31 (0)384772734	Tel: +31 (0)527 206520
Fax:	+31 (0)384772815	
e-mail:	h.beek@staatsbosbeheer.nl e.beens@staatsbosbeheer.nl j.bredenbeek@staatsbosbeheer.nl	C.Braat@natuurmonumenten.nl R.Martens@natuurmonumenten.nl
www:	www.staatsbosbeheer.nl	www.natuurmonumenten.nl

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.

1. The development and use of Lelystad Airport should not jeopardise any of the Natura 2000 targets or the quality of the National Park Weerribben-Wieden;

In the past year, the Government has continued to work on the Response report, which responds to the submitted opinions and the Commission's advice for the EIA on the EIA plan and the appropriate broad outlines of the EIA plan. Also examined where the sections where the documents mentioned will be adapted. In view of the submitted opinions and the advice of the EIA Commission, the drafting of the Response report and the Preference Decision will take more time and will be completed around the turn of the year (2021/2022). To be continued in 2022.

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. Continue to monitor the effects of the connection between De Weerribben and De Wieden on mammals and invertebrates, paying particular attention to lighting conditions, vegetation continuity and water quality;

No relevant data are available yet for this year. However, during camera monitoring it appeared that the passage is used by otters and roe deer and other mammals.

2. Design and implement a management plan for fish stocks covering all species and continue monitoring their development, with a particular emphasis on eels, to strengthen the ecological function of the reserves and natural reproduction in line with Natura 2000 requirements;

The Fish Management Committee (VBC) covers a larger area than just the Weerribben-Wieden because the Reest & Wieden and Groot Salland Water Boards have merged to form one Water Board: Drents Overijsselse Delta Water Board (WDOD). As a result, a new Fish Management plan will be drawn up with all the authorities concerned. It is not yet clear when this Fish Management plan will be ready. It is expected that by the end of 2022, we will be able to explain more about this and perhaps already add a plan.

3. Monitor the trends in boating activity and their impact on fauna; consider limiting the size and number of boats during peak periods;

Like last year, the Covid pandemic is still with us. As a result, there is an enormous increase in boating in the Weerribben-Wieden, which is difficult to stop and equally difficult to regulate. Because the zoning is in good order and there are sufficient resting areas for flora and fauna, vulnerable areas are spared and closed during the breeding season. In addition, there is sufficient monitoring to take action in areas where people are not allowed to be and if boats go too fast.

The National Park is working on a 'smart mobility' app that can provide insight into the visitor flows. For the future, the idea is to be able to steer on the basis of data as well.

4. Continue with the designation of adjoining areas as extensions of, or buffer zones to, the protected areas, especially to the north (Rottige Meente) and south-east (Staphorster Veld), and create a connection between the two separate parts of De Wieden Nature Reserve between the Zuideindiger Wiede and the Bovenwiede;

The plans for the buffer zone between the Weerribben and Rottige Meenthe are being further developed by the Province of Overijssel. In addition to the development plan, the possibility is also being investigated as to whether the municipality of Steenwijkerland can construct a bypass around the village of Ossenzijl. This road should reduce the traffic in the village, especially in the summer months, but should not form a barrier in the ecological buffer zone between the two areas. The route will be integrated into the plan and financial resources will be sought to enable it to be implemented at a later date. This route has great advantages for nature and, if this bypass is constructed, a good fauna facility can be realised. The current road offers far fewer possibilities for a good fauna passage.

Meanwhile, discussions have been held and are continuing as to the management of the area between Zuideindiger Wiede and Bovenwiede. These talks are not easy, but a start has been made. The lease contracts expire at the end of 2021, so Natuurmonumenten can start preparing for the management of the Whinchat and the Corn Crake in 2022 based on the aforementioned (previous report) study by Sovon.

5. Continue with the renovation works at the Weerribben visitors' centre in Ossenzijl and raise the attractiveness of both this and the De Wieden visitors' centre to foreign visitors by introducing texts in English, at least, and preferably also in German and French, at all exhibitions;

Staatsbosbeheer and the municipality of Steenwijkerland are continuing with the development of a European Wetland Centre. The European Wetland Centre is part of the vision of recreation and tourism and the strategic mobility vision to spread visitors more widely and have them visit the area in a sustainable way. It is the intention to develop multilingual information for foreign visitors in the coming years all of which will be done in cooperation with Marketing East and the Weerribben-Wieden National Park.

Meanwhile, the area brochure 'Discover the Wieden' has been published in English and German and is also available on the Natuurmonumenten De Wieden website in several languages. Information leaflets on the excursion boats are also available in English, French and German. In the former water tower, in addition to Dutch, all texts are also in English, French and German, as well as Chinese. The information boards along the slatted path all have texts in Braille. An English and German language video is available in the Visitor Centre.

The website of the Weerribben-Wieden National Park has an extensive English and German section. In addition, information boards with English and German information have been placed in various villages in and around the National Park.

6. Anticipating the decision of Dutch authorities to adopt a new definition of national parks, ensure that the National Park Weerribben-Wieden complies with the new criteria for national parks and continues to benefit from this designation;

This process is ongoing and the National Park will take a more prominent role in this. The new work organisation of the National Park will be jointly implementing the already existing project plans and visions. In the coming years, the National Park will work with the area partners on a landscape biography and a landscape ecological systems analysis.

7. Avoid any use of burning practices when managing reed lands whenever an alternative, equally effective, management approach is available and compatible with management goals;

There will be no burning in the Wieden this summer. Burning reed waste only takes place in the winter during reed cutting. The best thing would be if the reed waste could be processed into a product like the reed itself. So far, studies have shown that the production costs for such products will be much higher than the revenues. Burning still takes place in the Weerribben although already much less than before. The (summer) hay clippings from the meadows are increasingly being removed and sold as soil improvers to local farmers. Unfortunately, the management fee for disposal is very low. Staatsbosbeheer and Natuurmonumenten are looking for new sales opportunities together.

8. Give more visibility to the European Diploma logo and raise awareness about its aims and objectives on the website of the National Park Weerribben-Wieden, through social media or information panels in visitors' centres.

The European Diploma flag hangs in the management office of De Wieden. We are very proud of our European Diploma and refer to it annually in a variety of internal and external reports. In the management cycle (internal quality assessment) the European Diploma is mentioned in the nature vision and also in all other quality assessments. The updated information boards in the Weerribben explain what the European Diploma means and show the logo. Reference to the European Diploma is also made via the Visit Weerribben-Wieden website. <https://en.visitweerribbenwieden.com/weerribben-wieden-national-park/>

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.

This year, the Weerribben-Wieden Foundation started a work organisation. The new work organisation of the National Park will be implementing the already existing project plans and visions. See answer 6.

On 1 October of this year, Susan Bonekamp started as the new Head of the Provincial Staatsbosbeheer Unit in Overijssel. Previously, Ms Bonekamp was the area manager of the Oostvaardersplassen.

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.

No changes

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.

Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropic origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated.

There has been a nationwide debate on how to deal with the peat soils. Due to the permanent settling, regular agriculture will no longer be possible in the long run because the peat soils are becoming too wet for that. As a result, opportunities will arise for nature, for example, hydrological buffer zones, wet grassland for meadow birds or marshland development. Measures to reduce CO₂ emissions from peat bogs, financed by CO₂ compensation initiatives from large companies or projects may also lead to peatlands becoming more wet. There will also be a national programme to extensify or relocate farmers around N2000 areas to reduce nitrogen deposition. All these programmes offer opportunities for more wetland and buffer zones around the Weerribben-Wieden National Park.

Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetational cover; presumed causes.

From the vegetation survey, which was carried out in the Weerribben in 2020 and 2021, it appeared that many reedlands where sods were cut have developed into floating fens.

Regrettably, Cabomba aquatic has established itself in the Weerribben. With the help of the Province of Overijssel, attempts are being made to clean up the growing areas in order to prevent further spreading. This is a costly process.

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