

**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 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: **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 2015, number of years since renewal: 5**

**Central authority concerned:**

Name:	Staatsbosbeheer	Name:	Natuurmonumenten
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www:	<a href="http://www.staatsbosbeheer.nl">www.staatsbosbeheer.nl</a>	www:	<a href="http://www.natuurmonumenten.nl">www.natuurmonumenten.nl</a>

**Authority responsible for its management:**

Name:	Staatsbosbeheer Team De Weerribben	Natuurmonumenten Team De Wieden
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www:	<a href="http://www.staatsbosbeheer.nl">www.staatsbosbeheer.nl</a>	<a href="http://www.natuurmonumenten.nl">www.natuurmonumenten.nl</a>

<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.

1. Urge the responsible authorities to adopt the joint Natura 2000 management plan, by the end of 2016, as an official and binding document which will be considered as covering the requirements of the European Diploma.

In De Wieden, a start has been made with the creation of a foreshore for the CARE REPEAT project. This foreshore will be filled with material from the 10 ha peat pit, which will be dug in the winter of 2020-2021. Meanwhile, deforestation work has also been started at locations where the peat pits are going to be dug. Furthermore, several measures from the N2000 management plan have been completed, such as:

- scraping 60 plots for the development of blue grassland;
- converting swamp forest into peat moss reed marshes and floating fens;
- scraping 15 ha for peat moss reed marshes.

Natuurmonumenten is now preparing to outsource the measures described in the addendum. These are similar measures as to those from the 1st period.

Staatsbosbeheer and the province of Overijssel are preparing the final phase with regard to the implementation of the first management measures around the Kooi van Pen. Due to Covid 19, there was a delay in the consultations with tenants and local residents so that the procedure was delayed. Work in the field is now planned to start in January 2021 and consists of scraping away acidified rough reed land and removing the woody residue for conversion to peat moss reed marshes and floating fens.

In order to strengthen the connection with De Wieden on the south side of De Weerribben, the Province of Overijssel and Staatsbosbeheer are drawing up a new development plan for the Noordmanen. The aim is to develop more wet and moisture-tolerant vegetation for the Large Copper, for warblers and other marsh birds. The implementation will take place in the coming years.

Staatsbosbeheer and the Province of Overijssel have examined a large part of the leased reed lands in De Weerribben for the presence of the Large Copper. Following on from this, maintenance arrangements have been agreed with leaseholders to adapt the summer cutting management in favour of the Large Copper. The remaining part of the leased reed lands will be examined in the coming year.

**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. Implement a monitoring programme to evaluate the effects of the new connection between De Weerribben and De Wieden, the construction of which was finished by the end of 2014, at least on important and/or endangered species, considering the exemplary role of the project;

In 2020, a start was made with monitoring using wildlife cameras. These are smart cameras that can immediately identify the species. We expect the results in 2021.

2. Monitor the further development of fish stocks, with an emphasis on eels, to strengthen the ecological function of the reserves and natural reproduction in line with Natura 2000 requirements;

There are no additions to the previous report.

3. Limit the impact of fishing by defining a maximum number of licenses or limiting the catch; define methods to avoid secondary catches of otter or other species; and ensure the further development of a management plan for fish stocks covering all species, as requested in the previous resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma;

There are no additions to the previous report.

4. Carefully observe the development of boating on the Kalenberger Gracht and set limits (for example a maximum number and/or size of boats) or provide for measures in case of increasing numbers of larger boats;

Due to the Corona pandemic people went on holiday in their own countries, which led to an increase in visitors and more boating activity on the Kalenberger Gracht towards the Frisian lakes.} Due to the hot summer and to not being able to go on holiday abroad, many people sought the water in small and often electrically-driven boats and canoes. As a result of the new and adapted canoe network and proper communication, the increase did not lead to any problems.

<https://en.visitweerribbenwieden.com/things-to-do/activities/canoe-routes/>  
<https://en.visitweerribbenwieden.com/weerribben-wieden-national-park/>

5. 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;

In 2020, the project of the construction of several fauna passages will be completed, which includes the fencing of almost the entire Zomerdijk. The Zomerdijk is the provincial road that forms the boundary between De Wieden and the Staphorsterveld (Olde maten & Veerslootlanden) and causes many road kills (otter and roe deer).

Sovon completed a literature study in 2020 on the location of most of the potential areas in De Wieden for Whinchat and Corn Crake. Alefs P. & Koffijberg K. 2019. Habitat for the Corn Crake and Whinchat in De Wieden. Sovon-rapport 2019/88. Sovon Bird Research Netherlands, Nijmegen. The Province of Overijssel intends to develop the areas for these species, creating a more suitable landscape for De Wieden nature reserve.

On the north side of the Weerribben near Ossenzijl, plans have been made for a marsh link with the Rottige Meente reserve. Approximately 100 ha of grassland will be transformed here, especially for the Large Copper. The goal is to connect the last two populations of this species. But there will also be extra habitat for reed birds and the Spotted Crake.

6. Review contracts with business owners and landowners with regard to habitat management, and especially the duration of these contracts, to ensure that management can be directed by the responsible authorities and to prevent long-term and irredeemable contracts through which the reserve authorities have limited leverage;

Every year, the number of long-leased plots decreases due to tenants cancelling their lease.

In the Kooi van Pen and Noord Manen nature development areas, permanent tenants are being bought out by the Province of Overijssel because the new nature management measures can no longer be carried out by the current tenants.

7. Observe possible threats which may occur due to the intensification of agriculture, changes in water management or construction of wind farms;

This was the 3rd consecutive year in which the water level was kept as high as possible in the summer, in order to respond to the drought of recent years. This was still part of the pilot but, as of next year, this new water level will be official. All parties are happy with this. Despite the large quantity of intake water, the water board did not see any negative effects on the water quality and neither Staatsbosbeheer nor Natuurmonumenten observed any abnormalities. The nature management aspects also had no significant problems with the higher level.

There are plans for solar parks (Wanneperveen) and wind farms (Zwartsluis) just outside the nature reserve, but these could affect breeding populations of marsh birds (Purple Heron, Great Bittern, Marsh Harrier). Part of their foraging area will disappear or they will be in danger of being killed by wind turbines.

Regarding water quality research, a pilot is being started to see whether the phosphate can be captured by means of biocascades in order to improve the quality of the water, especially from the farmland polders. In De Weerribben, irrigation trials are also taking place in bog moss reed-lands to see what the effect is of different irrigation regimes on the vegetation and water quality.

8. Secure adequate funds to convert the Ossenzijl information centre, at least in part, into an educational centre geared towards young people.

In collaboration with the municipality of Steenwijkerland, the 'regional deal' has been secured. The resources are earmarked for a better distribution of tourists within the municipality. An amount of 2 million euros is available for the development of the European Wetland Centre. The plans are being further developed and actualised together with the partners.

**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 Board of the Weerribben-Wieden Foundation appointed a new chairman, Mr Harold Viscaal, in January 2020.

Wardens' department: changes made

Area manager Bea Claessens retired on 1 July 2020, after which Chris Braat took over the office. Chris Braat had already worked as area manager at Natuurmonumenten for the Frisian Meadows and Wadden areas.

The halving of the SNL management rate for peat moss reed marshes threatened to impede the nature management activities in De Weerribben. Due to a joint lobby by tenants and SBB, the rate has been increased by € 150, and the SNL water-access rate for peat moss reed marshes has been made available by the province of Overijssel. With this, the rate for the management of peat moss reed marshes has been largely rectified.

**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.

There are no additions to the previous report.

**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.

Flora and vegetation;

The vegetation mapping was started in 2020 and will be completed in 2022, and reported in 2023. Changes in the vegetation will become clear after that time

Cultural heritage;

In 2020, the 'Biography of Beulaker, an interdisciplinary study of the landscape history of and the dealings with the drowned village of Beulaker' was published, a master's thesis by A. Stokvis. A very comprehensive description of the history of the village and the area around it, De Wieden.

### National Parks New Style;

The National Park system in the Netherlands is undergoing a transition towards a “New Style National Parks”: a more regional approach towards nature protection and biodiversity conservation that includes intensive collaboration with municipalities and the Province, with more attention for the economic contribution of landscape and conservation, and with a greater involvement of public and private partners and shareholders. To achieve the National Parks New Style ambition, work according to the four stages appropriate to the new National Park standard and criteria: 1. Analyze, protect and restore the large scale ecological system; 2. Ensure sustainably functioning abiotic and biotic natural processes and coherent ecosystems (large-scale natural processes);

3. Restore significant landscape-ecological macro gradients and

4. Maintain internationally distinctive and cohesively-represented natural, landscape and cultural-historical values.

At the landscape level, the Dwingelderveld, Drents-Friese Wold and De Weerribben-Wieden National Parks form a cohesive area and watersystem. The water from the higher Drents Plateau flows via stream valleys to the lowland of Overijssel. In fact, you could say that this is the most intact marcogradient between the higher and lower grounds that characterize the Dutch delta '. Within a small distance,, several typical ecological and landscape types are united and grouped together in a rich historical landscape.

“National Park de Weerribben-Wieden is currently taking significant steps towards the implementation of the new National Park strategy”

There is a proces going on to collobarate with the representatives of the neighbouring National Parks in the province Drenthe. There is much common ground with adjacent nature reserves; connection with the region is one of the nationally-formulated twelve conditions for the new standard of a National Park and helps in connecting the reservers for biodiversity and migration goals, but also in shared visitor management and spreading tourism.

Where and how can we collobarate, what is the mutual 'win'? How can we strengthen each other to improve the natural values, spatial quality and liveability? These are the questions that will be leading in the coming period.

On 20 November 2020, the committee reconnaissance national parks delivered its advise and pointed out which Dutch area's contain universal and outstanding qualities from a international point of view. This report confirms that De Weerribben – Wieden, in combination with the IJssel delta and the connection with the Drenthe plateau, meets the set National Park criteria and that this area has internationally unique natural, landscape and cultural heritage values.

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.

The answers to the questions below were provided in the 2018 report, because the expert's visit took place in 2018.

**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**