

**Resolution CM/ResDip(2019)12
on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Nature Reserve of
Naardermeer (Netherlands)**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 November 2019
at the 1361th meeting (Budget) of the Ministers' Deputies)¹*

Annual report for the year 2024

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: Netherlands

Name of the area: Naardermeer

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:
Awarded at 5 May 2004, renewal at 21 November 2019

Central authority concerned:

Name: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature

Address: The Hague, Bezuidenhoutseweg 73, 2594 AC The Hague

Tel: +31 70 379 8911

e-mail: <https://www.government.nl/contact/public-information-service/email>

www: <https://www.government.nl/ministries/ministry-of-agriculture-fisheries-food-security-and-nature>

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Vereniging Natuurmonumenten

Address: Meerkade 2, 1412 AB Naarden

Tel: +31-35-6990000

e-mail: p.blom@natuurmonumenten.nl

www: <https://www.natuurmonumenten.nl/natuurgebied/naardermeer>

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. preserve the integrity of the Naardermeer Nature Reserve and avoid, through regional planning processes, further habitat fragmentation within the reserve and in the surrounding landscape; increase the ecological connectivity both within the reserve and between the Naardermeer Nature Reserve and the surrounding natural areas;
- Phase 1 of the development of De Schil has been completed. Phase 2 is now being prepared. Ecological guidelines for the elaboration of the work have been drawn up. The specifications for the work to be carried out are now online, so that contractors can submit a quote. Execution of the development work is planned for 2025 and 2026.
- Due to a shortage of space for electricity transport, the high-voltage network (380kV) must be expanded in the west of the Netherlands. A study shows that the preferred variant will run along the Naardermeer. We want to prevent the natural values of the Naardermeer from being damaged and are closely monitoring developments so that we can propose adjustments and, if necessary, file an objection.

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. following the withdrawal of the plans for the A6-A9 motorway connection that required the construction of a new stretch of road north-west of the nature reserve, monitor the possible impact on the diploma-holding area and its surrounding environment of the alternative selected route using the existing A1 and A9 highways;
- The fauna passage under the A1 motorway has been redesigned this year so that it better connects to the Naardermeer
2. finalise the Natura 2000 management plan and the water management plan including the water level agreement for the Naardermeer Nature Reserve by 2020; if necessary, plan and implement additional management lines to ensure the long-term conservation of the Naardermeer Nature Reserve within the context and requirements of the European Diploma;
- Following the note on the project "De Schil" in the report of 2022 and 2023 as mentioned in note 1, fase 1 has finished. The plans for phase 2 are such that they can be tendered to contractors.
3. by 2020, draw up a development plan for the recently acquired lands within the buffer zone of the Naardermeer Nature Reserve – the Hilversumse Bovenmeent (De Jong grounds) – in order to ensure the full integration of this area into the reserve buffer zone by 2024;
- The agricultural land of De Jong, already owned by Natuurmonumenten, will be included in the design of phase 2 De Schil.
4. before 2029, secure the necessary funding to acquire the remaining areas within the buffer zone which are not yet the property of the Natuurmonumenten organisation. Alternatively, if the current administrative procedures do not allow the necessary land acquisition, ensure that the management of these areas is carried out in collaboration with the authorities responsible for the diploma-holding area;
- The developments and prospects in both land position and design are progressing well
5. within the continued monitoring of Bovenste Blik Lake, integrate further research aiming to identify the main reasons for the decreasing water quality in this lake; define and implement appropriate management measures to prevent further water contamination; improve and keep the water quality in this lake at the same levels currently observed in the remaining lakes of the Naardermeer Nature Reserve;
- Following on from the 2023 report, it can be reported that developments in the Bovenste Blik in the field of Chara-vegetation are going well.
6. initiate studies focusing on the biological control of invasive alien plant species occurring in the reserve and prepare a strategic plan for their mechanical or manual control;

- Unfortunately, there are bad developments in the field of aquatic vegetation in 2024.

Firstly, the mapping shows that the submerged aquatic plant vegetation has seriously deteriorated, almost disappearing. This does not apply to Chara-vegetation. Because we are concerned, we have put this on the agenda with the Provincial government and the Water Board. After consultation with ecologists, an ecological consultancy firm has now been asked to formulate and investigate the possible causes.

- Secondly, a new invasive exotic species has been found. Various-leaved Water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*) is present in the Uitwatering. No good control methods are yet known. We try to remove it by manual raking and try to prevent further expansion. We have installed floating dams in the waterways. In this way we try to prevent the spread of loose plant parts and by monitoring the waterways for the presence of this exotic species. In the meantime, we are looking for the best control method in consultation with other parties, without making the problem worse.

7. strengthen the monitoring programmes and the conservation measures to guarantee the presence of naturally occurring species newly appeared in the diploma area.

This year, 131 breeding pairs of the Purple Heron were mapped using a drone.

Also this year, a new growth site of no fewer than 120 specimens of Bog adder's-mouth orchid (*Hammarbya paludosa*) was found in a cleared and restored reed land. Until recently, only one small growing area was known.

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.

A new site manager started in May 2024, Patrick Blom

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.

-There is a prospect that we will acquire ownership of 40 hectares of land within a few years. In 2024, the Province of North Holland committed itself to transferring ownership of former agricultural grasslands with the objective of wet meadows.

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.

No further information

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

--