

**Het Naardermeer**

**Nature reserve NL  
2013**



**ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE PERIOD  
December 1, 2012 – November 31, 2013**

**In accordance with the relevant directive  
of the Council of Europe, this report describes only the changes  
which took place in the period under review.**

**Text:  
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**Het Naardermeer  
November 2013**

**RESOLUTION ResDip (2008) 1  
ON THE REGULATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA  
OF PROTECTED AREAS**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008  
at the 1018<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR NAARDERMEER

State: Netherlands  
Name of the area: Naardermeer

### Central authority concerned:

Name: Ministry for Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation  
Address: The Hague, Bezuidenhoutseweg 30, 2594 AV The Hague  
Tel: +31-70 – 3786868  
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e-mail:  
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### Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Natuurmonumenten  
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Tel: +31-35-6550000  
Fax:  
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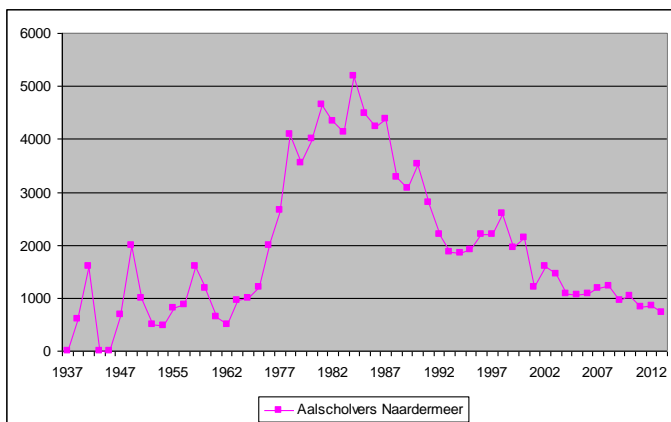
## I. General information

### 1. Natural heritage (general a biotic description: geomorphology, geology and hydrogeology, habitats, flora, fauna, landscape) — State of conservation

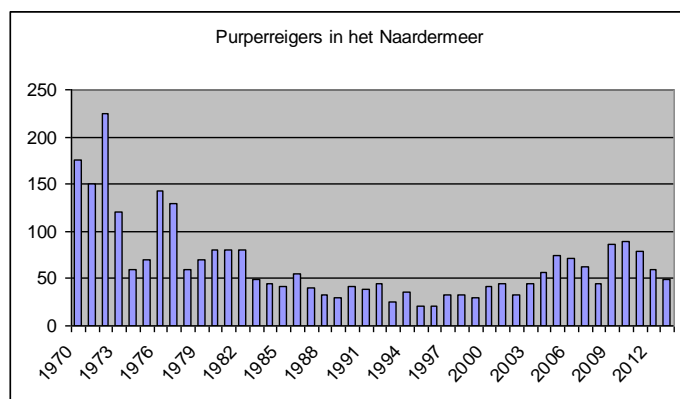
- 1.1. *Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthrop origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated.* None.
- 1.2. *Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetation cover; presumed causes.* None.
- 1.3. *Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating, egg-laying and breeding grounds.*

In 2013 the Black tern started out nesting with a couple of 17 pairs. Unfortunately during the summer some adults left their nest and eggs and/or youngsters were departed. Exact numbers are unknown, but less than 10 nest were successful.

In 2013 725 nests of Cormorants are counted in Naardermeer “Jan Hagensbos”. A lot of trees are dying because of the cormorant manure and therefore not available as nesting tree, this could be an explanation for the slightly diminished numbers.



Breeding Purple heron at Naardermeer, see graph. The diminishing of nests is still ongoing, we are not sure of the cause but it could be the bad situation in their winter habitat.



## **2. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context**

2.1. *Cultural heritage: changes concerning cultural heritage.* None.

2.2. *Changes concerning the socio-economic context.*

In September 2013 elections for the Dutch government led to a new parliament. Budget cuts on nature-conservation were only mildly softened. Due to the decentralisation of policy making, the 12 provinces are now in charge of nature conservation. With less money, provinces now have full responsibility for nature. A new law for nature is expected to be presented by the central government by the end of 2013.

## **3. Education and scientific interest**

3.1. *Visitors — Information policy*

3.1.1. *Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.)* No changes.

3.1.2. *Frequentation by visitors and behaviour (number, distribution in time and space).*

During the year almost all of the excursions on Lake Naardermeer were full-booked. Approximately 6600 visitors enjoyed a boat-trip to the cormorants or the duck-decoy in 2013.

3.1.3. *Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.)*

Due to the opening of the ecological corridor to Ankeveense Plassen a few visits have taken place of national television. Summer 2013 a national discussion about the appearance of a Wolf in The Netherlands has taken place. Also the broadcasting of a national radio programme “Vroege Vogels” takes place at Gasterij Stadzicht since the beginning of 2013. Special guests for this programmes birthday have been visiting.

3.2. *Scientific research*

A group of experts, supported and initiated by the Water Board, is still proceeding a program for field tests on germination of reed (*Phragmites australis*). These tests are a result of measures formulated in the Water Directive. Germination of reed is problematic due to wild geese, fixed water level or chemical suffocation of reed beds. Research should determine whether reduction in water solution can provide growth of reed under Naardermeer conditions.

3.2.1. *Current or completed research (observation, experimentation, etc.; identification or inventory of the species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention, etc.).* None.

3.2.2. *Scientific publications.* None.

## **4. Site description (vulnerability, protection status, ownership, documentation)**

4.1. *Changes in legislation or regulations.*

The Nature Protection Act (Natuurbeschermingswet) is altered. Core is to come to less restrictions for farmers and businesses. The present concept text will mean less protection for nature outside Natura2000 areas. The former government wanted to try to withdraw some Natura2000 protected areas, because they believe the Netherlands has done more than was requested by Europe. It is not yet known which way the new government will take in this matter.

Under direction of the province of Noord-Holland some progress has been made in the production of a Natura2000 Management plan. .

In the course of the political debate about ammonia-deposition the process of final designation of Natura 2000 sites is postponed.

- 4.2. *Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentals, etc.)* The former workspace “De Visserij” at the north-site of Naardermeer is posted on the public housing market in September.
- 4.3. *Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve).* None.

## **5. Site management (management plans, budget and personnel)**

- 5.1. *Improvements made*
  - 5.1.1. *Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; controls of fauna.* A big LIFE programme is set up: New LIFE for Dutch fens. Naardermeer is part of this programme and currently busy detailing the planned actions. Cutting woodland, excavating peatland and clearing old reedland are part of the programme. All set up to improve the biotopes of reed- and marshbirds and stimulating vulnerable vegetations of young peatland.
  - 5.1.2. *Protection against the elements (fire, water regime).* None.
  - 5.1.3. *Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)* None.
  - 5.1.4. *Field equipment (hides and study facilities).* None.
  - 5.1.5. *Waste management.* None.
  - 5.1.6. *Use of renewable energy systems.* No changes.
- 5.2. *Management*
  - 5.2.1. *Administrative department: changes made.* None.
  - 5.2.2. *Wardens’ department: changes made.* A new colleague, miss H. Tersmette has joined the team. She will be focusing on communication and recreation.
  - 5.2.3. *Internal policing measures.* 2013 was the third year in which outsourcing took place by means of management specifications. We are happy with the reduced costs and time saved by this construction.
  - 5.2.4. *Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action.* None

## **II. Influence of the award of the European Diploma of Protected Areas**

The ongoing budget cuts and policy change of Dutch government provides substantial restriction in completing the Ecological Main Structure of the Netherlands. Construction of ecological corridors with support from the central government is terminated. It is certain that provinces will not have enough money to realise all of these connections. Naardermeer still has some private property enclaves that frustrate good nature management. The new policy means that these problems are unlikely to be solved in the nearby future. The government budget cuts on nature preservation will certainly have effects on the management of Naardermeer.

## **III. Conditions and/or recommendations for award or renewal**

Progress with measures taken in order to meet the conditions and/or recommendations defined during the award or renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas.

### **Recommendations:**

- 1. Long term improvement of the hydrological conditions of the reserve needs reduced pumping of drinking water in the Gooi hills and the separation of sewage water and surface water to increase quality of infiltration.

Ad 1. No changes or progress.

2. In order to complete all adequate actions of restoration and nature development it is of high priority that Natuurmonumenten gets financial support to complete the buffer zone around the core area of the reserve.

Ad 2. Complete acquirement of the purchase-areas in the reserve has already been difficult in the past, because of the informal character of the policy on this issue. The present policy of the government will make further purchase of land even more difficult and might lead to end this at all in the long term. This may lead to a partly fragmented Naardermeer-area and investments from "Brussel" could be partly seen as 'devaluated'. No changes or progress since last year.

3. - The function of the Naardermeer as a core area in the ecological network ('green main structure') needs that all possible measures are taken to avoid habitat fragmentation in the corridor landscapes towards the IJmeer, the IJsselmeer, the Vecht River, the Ankeveense Plassen and the Gooi hills.  
- in the regional planning the creation of the 'natte as' ('wet axis' or corridor with Naardermeer as a core area) between Amsterdam and Hilversum is to be promoted.

Ad 3. In October 2013 the ecological passage between Naardermeer and Ankeveen is completed. The corridor to the North under the motorway A1 is still in preparation. Rijkswaterstaat and contractors are designing constructions for a 50m wide corridor under the motorway. Plans for two ecological corridors under the railway are elaborated. The west corridor has proven to be over-the-top for the species it was designed for. A new study on the ecological functionality therefore has started in July 2013. The construction of the east corridor has been taken over by the railway-company due to infrastructural works on this part of the railway.

4. - The establishment of larger ecological zones in the surrounding agricultural area enabling the further restoration of water levels is recommended, in order to avoid leakage from the reserve and further shrinking of peat layers.  
- Restoration programmes transforming former polders into wetlands must be encouraged in order to link the Naardermeer with its surroundings; this needs agro-environmental agreements with the agricultural sector.

Ad 4. Currently talks are going on to purchase more farmlands.

5. The possibilities to improve the connecting corridor between Naardermeer and Ankeveense plassen by reconstructing the actual road on pillars (removal of a barrier) are to be considered.

Ad 5. Realised, see ad 3.

6. - In relation to the construction of a new motorway connection (A6-A9), the zero option, alternative routes and the possibility of underground passage NW of the reserve are to be duly investigated in a preliminary Environmental Impact study.  
- The effects of widening of the A1 on the nearby reserve are to be minimised.  
- Risks for pollution deriving from transport along motorways and railroad are to be minimised and carefully caught.

Ad 6. No changes.