



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE  
Committee of Ministers  
Comité des Ministres

## 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 2018

Annual reports should describe the changes that have taken place since the previous year in dynamic terms of management and function and should 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: 3**

#### Central authority concerned:

Name:	Staatsbosbeheer	Name:	Natuurmonumenten
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Fax:	+31 (0)30 6922978	e-mail:	<a href="mailto:J.Bisschops@natuurmonumenten.nl">J.Bisschops@natuurmonumenten.nl</a>
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www:	<a href="http://www.staatsbosbeheer.nl">www.staatsbosbeheer.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 that 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 that will be considered as covering the requirements of the European Diploma;*

The Wieden-Weerribben 2000 Management Plan has been the official Management Plan for the Weerribben-Wieden National Park since 2017. The management plan can be viewed via this link: [https://www.bij12.nl/assets/definitief\\_beheerplan\\_ww\\_pdf\\_incl\\_bijlagen\\_20170619\\_website\\_15mb.pdf](https://www.bij12.nl/assets/definitief_beheerplan_ww_pdf_incl_bijlagen_20170619_website_15mb.pdf)  
The Province of Overijssel is responsible for drawing up the N2000 Management Plan.

The implementation of the PAS (the process-based nitrogen approach) has been postponed for the Weerribben. Due to the large number of management measures envisaged, an environmental impact assessment must be carried out before implementation. In De Wieden, we have already started with transporting the biomass of the summer and winter mowing to the agricultural companies in the Northeast polder. This will increase in the coming years. Furthermore, preparations have been made for several PAS projects. In 2019, they will start scaling off the reedland in De Wieden for the development of peat moss reed marshes, sod cutting for blue moor grass land, deforesting floating fens for the development of floating fens, and digging pet holes (10 ha)

**2. Recommendations:** List here all recommendations that 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 at the end of 2014, at least for important and/or endangered species, considering the exemplary role of the project;*

In 2018, a start was made with collecting observations of the larger mammals by means of trace research. Traces of otter, deer, fox and martens have been found under the bridge. Points of special interest were the presence of the Large copper in areas on either side of the Steenwijk-Blokzijl road. On De Weerribben side, small populations were found in two places, the nearest was 500 m from the road and 700 m from the nature bridge. In 2018, data was collected with the aid of camera traps and walk-in traps. Only common mice and shrew mice were trapped. On the camera trap there were images of roe deer, hare, red fox and pinemarten. A barn owl was also photographed when it was flying under the bridge. Further research into the use of the bridge will continue in the coming years. The monitoring will be jointly carried out by Staatsbosbeheer and Natuurmonumenten. In 2019 the monitoring will be continued.

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

A joint Fishery Management Plan has been drawn up by Natuurmonumenten, the Drents Overijsselse Delta Water Board, recreational angling and commercial fishing and Staatsbosbeheer. See appendices 1 and 2. In De Weerribben, the annual pike study group is still carrying out the annual pike monitoring. During the winter season, throughout De Weerribben, pike are caught with a rod, measured, weighed and released again. The state of the pike is currently very good. See appendix 3.

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.*

In 2017, Natuurmonumenten extended the fishing contracts in De Wieden provided that conditions regarding sustainability are met. If not, they will be terminated. Natuurmonumenten was in the process of terminating the lease agreements with the fishermen fishing for eel in De Wieden. This has led to a situation whereby

parties could not reach an agreement. Natuurmonumenten has lodged an appeal and the case will be heard in 2019.

There are no professional fishermen active in De Weerribben, although there is some angling in restricted places. In view of this, a special fishing brochure has been published in cooperation with the East Netherlands angling federation. See appendix 4.

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;*

In recent years, the number of large boats has decreased, the construction of boat moorings on the Kalenbergergracht (the Klompenperik) has been canceled and the plans to connect the Heuvengracht with the Steenwijk canal have not been implemented.

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*

The Province of Overijssel will work on the connection between Rottige Meenthe and the development of Noordmanen, which must be completed by 2023.

In the zone between the Bovenwiede and the Zuideindigerwiede, a few farmers are encouraging herb and fauna-rich grassland to create a type of corridor between these two areas. They are still working hard on this. A good and safe fauna passage between De Wieden and the Staphorsterveld unfortunately still remains an obstacle. The realisation of a safe passage over the N334 provincial road and the Meppelerdiep Canal is a costly affair. The area managing organisations are constantly requesting that the Province of Overijssel and the Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management (Rijkswaterstaat) focus their attention on finding a suitable solution. Research in 2017 has shown that it is an important connection between the areas for the otter, among others. On the Overijssel side of the Linde, the little river on the border of the Provinces of Friesland and Overijssel, an ecological connection of about 2 ha will be created. It will be a connection between the Rottige Meenthe and Lindevalley. The development will be included in the development of the Weerribben - Rottige Meenthe connection

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 that mean which the reserve authorities have limited leverage*

In 2016, agreement was reached with the reed sector and the Province of Overijssel on changes in the Provincial Nature and Landscape subsidy (SNL). With the new subsidy scheme, the threatening problem of VAT levying for reed growers was averted. Staatsbosbeheer supervises the management which is carried out by the tenants. The Province pays 80% of the management fee directly to the reedland tenants. In 2017, Natuurmonumenten started a natural farming course for its tenants and a number of farmers have already completed the first stage of this course. The course will be extended in 2018 to include other farmers (tenants) as well as the next stages of the study.

Staatsbosbeheer will terminate a few lease contracts in the Weerribben within the framework of the PAS by means of compensation in cash and/or land. The function of these plots has changed so much that the current management is not in line with the intended nature objectives.

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

Flight path over Weerribben-Wieden National Park.

In 2015, the government decided to expand Lelystad Airport, which needs to be operational for tourist flights in 2019. The new airport will have flights approaching from all corners of the world, including from above the province of Overijssel. The final approach routes have now been published.

At most places in the Kop van Overijssel, Salland and the Vechtdal areas, the aeroplanes will be flying above Overijssel at an altitude of 6,000 feet (1,500-1,800 metres).

For the National Park this means that one of the routes will fly over the nature reserve. And there will be a type of holding stack above the National Park, where aeroplanes will continue to circle until they receive

permission to land at Lelystad Airport. We do not exactly know what this means in terms of emissions above the area and the resulting disruption to people and animals.

Many concerned residents have filed a petition with the authorities and are opposed to these low approach routes. On behalf of its members, Natuurmonumenten has submitted an opinion on this expansion of Lelystad Airport, <https://www.natuurmonumenten.nl/over-natuurmonumenten/pers-en-nieuws/nieuws/zienswijze-natuurmonumenten-uitbreiding-lelystad-airport>.

The protests regarding the too-low flight path is still ongoing. Meanwhile, neighbouring municipalities have also protested.

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

In De Weerribben Visitors' Centre, the focus has been more on nature education in recent years. There is an extensive programme for the schools. The nature trail near De Weerribben Visitor Centre in Ossenzijl has been renovated and made accessible to wheelchair users. In collaboration with the IVN Nature Volunteer Organisation, various educational programmes have been carried out in the National Park this year with the focus on primary school pupils. There are also ongoing talks to renew De Weerribben Outdoor Centre in Ossenzijl. Initially, a new start will be attempted with existing entrepreneurs. The Centre will serve as a gateway to the National Park. In De Wieden Visitor Centre the slatted path has been renovated. This slatted path was repaired by a group of volunteers from Natuurmonumenten, who have been working on it throughout the entire year. It is now easily accessible to wheelchair users, for example, so that they can also enjoy the experience of De Wieden. This year, a beautiful water play area has been created where children can playfully experience the story of De Wieden as part of the Natuurmonumenten 'Oer' (Primal) educational programme. The active Junior Rangers group of De Weerribben-Wieden National Park celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2017. These young people aged from 12 to 18 help with maintenance, with the monitoring of plants and animals, and with educational and nature events. In addition to this group of youngsters, there are also 2 youth nature clubs active in the National Park where children aged 7 to 12 can participate.

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 State and the Province of Overijssel have delegated the tasks relating to the National Parks to the municipality of Steenwijkerland. A Core Team in which the various interested parties and the organisations responsible for the management of the Parks are represented, is considering the position of the New-Style National Park. In February 2017, the Core Team presented its final recommendations. For example, there is now a long-term implementation programme and a proposal for an independent organisation in the form of a foundation. The Municipal Executive and the Municipal Council of the Municipality of Steenwijkerland are in agreement with these final recommendations.

In the evaluation of the Foundation, SBB and Natuurmonumenten have insisted on embracing the New Standard for National Parks in the Netherlands. This New Standard provides for a better interaction between nature and the surrounding landscape. This development provides opportunities for the systemic restoration of nature, the promotion of biodiversity and appropriate economic development.

De Weerribben-Wieden Foundation

- focuses on ensuring tourist brand development and visibility in the area;
- stimulates cooperation between the sectors in the area and with the government;
- operates in a project-oriented manner on the demonstrable added value of the two-unit economy and ecology;
- aims to make visible and strengthen the synergy between the National Park and the region;
- stands for a welcoming and congenial area for residents and entrepreneurs;
- is an organisation in which the area partners participate on the basis of respect, trust and equality;
- is an organisation that is smart (effective and efficient) and responsive.

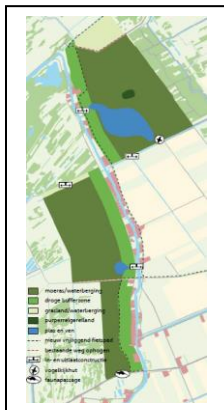
On 1 November 2017, Jurr van Dalen was appointed Director of De Weerribben-Wieden Foundation.

The NPWW (Weerribben-Wieden National Park) has recommended that the National Park be viewed in a broader context in connection with its surroundings. The main emphasis here should be on the balance between ecology and economy. The economic spin-off of the National Park is expected to work for a larger area and to decrease the pressure on well-known hotspots.

**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;

In 2017, Natuurmonumenten purchased a number of small plots on the border of De Wieden to be used in order to achieve the Natura 2000 targets. This will be expanded further in 2018 with the help of the Province which purchases areas and transfers them to Natuurmonumenten to be established as nature reserves.

The newly-established nature and water storage areas in Wetering West and Oost were officially handed over to Staatsbosbeheer in 2016. This is a total area of over 300 ha.



**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;

De Wieden nature vision has been completed. The nature vision will be shared with residents, businesses and holidaymakers. See appendix 5

Natuurmonumenten and Staatsbosbeheer have all their data in CMSi, and we are currently working out our nature management in combination with the OGIS Geographic Information System (GIS) programme. Staatsbosbeheer has established its new management plan for the Weerribben. This plan is in line with the Weerribben-Wieden Management Plan Natura 2000.

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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.

In March 2016, the complete LIFE for Dutch Fens project in De Wieden the project that aims to remove woodland in favour of hay-fields came to an end. Currently, 18.3 ha of land have been deforested for vegetation mats. Haymaking took place on both locations; from now on this will be an annual process. The open spaces with water will close up further due to the light ingress and, by mowing this whenever possible, peat moss reed marshes may form, and perhaps also floating fen vegetation.

In order to implement the PAS measures, specific sites where these measures are planned have been examined for the presence of vegetation and breeding birds. The results will be used when choosing the sites to be developed in order to prevent harm to protected species or habitat types. This data is also needed for obtaining permits and exemptions.

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

See various attached monitoring reports. Appendices 14 and 15.

2018

In De Wieden, a volunteer group has inventoried the plants and mosses on a parcel, whereby Red Scorpidium moss with capsulas was discovered. It is a rare find, which is not often seen in the Netherlands.

Last year, we counted 82 flowering Marsh gentians along Veldweg. This is slightly more than in previous years. In 2018, preparations were made for an integral vegetation survey of the De Wieden and Weerribben. This will be completed in 2021. A good comparison can then be made with previous surveys, making visible any changes in the vegetation.

The floating terrestrialised vegetation in De Weerribben is still increasing despite the water loss because of the dry summer.

Due to the drought this summer, many pools fell dry in the reed lands and the floating fens. Growing areas of Flat and Small Bladderwort, Red Scorpidium moss and Stone wort in particular fell dry early in the season. But later in the season, when the water level rose, some recovery was observed.

It is the only site with this species in the Netherlands.

The discovery of Carolina fanwort (*Cabomba Caroliniana*) was alarming. This invasive exotic species was found in two places in De Weerribben. A small growing area could be cleaned up, a second larger one has been closed off from the water system to prevent further spreading in anticipation of a control method. Carolina fanwort is a fast growing water plant from South America that can displace the native water plants.

Most of the woodlands in De Weerribben are raised bog woodlands. This is an important habitat type. In one of the larger woods on the east side of De Weerribben, growing sites of Hare's-tail cottongrass, Common cottongrass and Round-leaved sundew were found in the thick bog moss layers under the trees. They are indicators that bog formation is starting to occur in these woodlands. A natural peat system also includes raised bog, so this is a positive development.

2017

In De Weerribben, we have observed an increase in floating fen species; Galigan (*Cladium marsiscus*) in particular, is increasing significantly, especially in the cut reedlands. Also species such as Flat-leaved bladderwort (*Urticularia intermedia*), Small Bur-reed (*Sparganium minimum*) and Bog orchid (*Hammarbya paludosa*) have found a new habitat. This increase is mainly the result of the good water quality. The areas of Water soldier (*Stratiodes alloides*) are also still increasing. In some areas, terrestrialisation has progressed so much already that small fields of Lesser bulrush (*Typha angustifolium*) are forming as pioneers to the new floating reed vegetation.

At the beginning of October, a fourth spot of the rare Yellow Scorpidium moss (*Scorpidium scopioides*) was discovered in De Wieden. This is a spot where Red and Green Scorpidium moss were already found, but now also the Yellow Scorpidium Moss. This Yellow Scorpidium moss is found in 4 other places in the Netherlands, but it was first found in De Wieden, namely in the Meppelerdieplanden. It is monitored every 2 years and the location in the Meppelerdieplanden has been expanding in recent years.

2016

The aerial survey of flora was completed last year. The plant species for the entire Wieden have been identified and listed (inventory). All the data has been entered into CMSi; this data is for evaluation purposes for the Nature and Landscape subsidy (SBK) and will be handed over to the Province. A comparison of species with the previous survey is currently being carried out (insofar as this is possible) and will be completed in 2017.

An aerial survey of flora for the SNL was also carried out in De Weerribben. This concerns a set of characteristic plants for the various management types and Red List species, in total approximately 150 species. It is not easy to make a comparison with other surveys, as this is the first time that the inventory has taken place according to the SNL method.

2015

The flora inventory in De Wieden will have been completed. The flora in De Weerribben has also been fully mapped out for the Nature and Landscape subsidy.

6.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating, egg-laying and breeding grounds.

See attached monitoring reports..

Appendices 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13.

2018

Butterflies, grasshoppers and dragonflies;

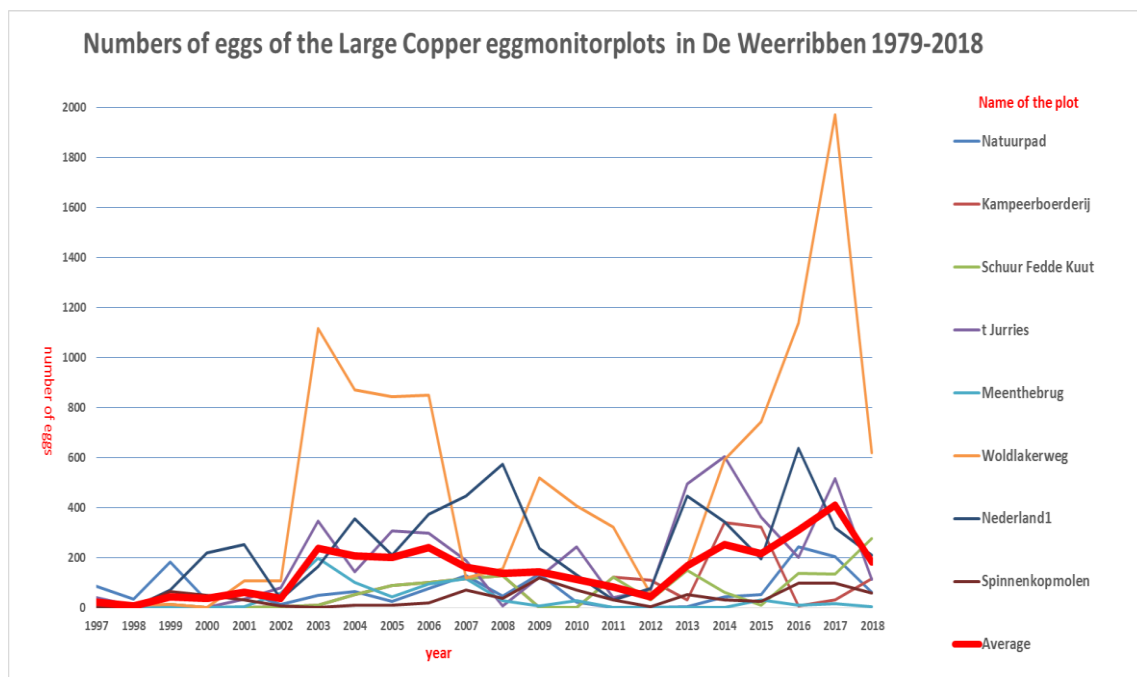
Last summer, a *Lamprotes c-aureum* was discovered in De Wieden. It is a fairly rare moth from Owl family, which is on the Red List with the Endangered status. In the summer, the Small Pearl-bordered fritillary was seen in abundance. It was a good year for butterflies and dragonflies in De Wieden.

The Dainty white-faced darter (a new species in 2011) was so common last year, that it was seen more often than the Large white-faced darter.

A great many *Chorthippus montanus* were seen last year, more than in the previous inventory round. Unfortunately, (still) no Large copper in De Wieden. The preparations for improving the area are well under way.

This year again, egg-count plots of the Large copper were counted in De Weerribben. Despite the hot summer, fewer eggs were counted and fewer butterflies were observed. It was most probably too hot. A special feature was the appearance of the second generation. No major changes were observed in the spreading within De Weerribben. We must wait to see how this decrease will affect next year's population. There are 12-egg count plots of the Large copper that are counted annually. More specimens of the Purple emperor are being observed in almost all forests in De Weerribben, the species is becoming more and more common.

In De Weerribben there are seven monitoring routes for dragonflies, focused on special species such as the Common winter damselfly, Lilypad whiteface, Green darter, Common winter damselfly and Norfolk damselfly. They are counted annually.



## Mammals

The otter population is still doing well in Northwest Overijssel, the populations consists of about 40 to 60 animals. See appendix 6. There are still obstacles in the road network around De Wieden and De

Weerribben where about ten otters are killed every year. The main problems are the Zwartsluis Beukers in De Wieden provincial road and Lageweg between De Weerribben and the Rottige Meenthe. Negotiations on the solutions to these problems with the owners of the roads, the Province of Overijssel and the Municipality of Steenwijkerland, are difficult.

However, the Province itself is taking the initiative to take a look at the various problems with the departments of ecology, roads and canals. The Municipality has built a new road on one of the bottlenecks but has, unfortunately, chosen not to include a fauna passage in this.

During the annual deer count in De Weerribben, a record number of deer were counted, namely 360. Despite their high numbers, there were no health or road safety problems. Every year, about 120 deer are culled for reasons of road safety and population management.

#### Birds

Last year was a difficult one for the kingfisher, the winter was rather severe. Only a few were spotted; hopefully their number will be higher in the coming year.

Many Red kites were spotted, but no cases of breeding were recorded in De Wieden, although they were in Southwest Drenthe.

The Peregrine falcon did well in the Municipality of Steenwijkerland. It was often seen on the water tower in St. Jansklooster and on the Grote Kerk in Steenwijk. On the latter, the bird has also nested. After 1 September, many Ospreys were spotted again.

In 2018, another 1,100 ha of De Weerribben was inventoried for characteristic and rare breeding birds. See table.

All grebes species	Wheatear
All herons	Grasshopper Warbler
All geese	Savi's Warbler
All ducks apart from the Mallard	Sedge Warbler
All birds of prey	Reed Warbler
All rails apart from the Coot	Great Reed Warbler
All waders	Marsh warbler
All gulls and sterna	Wood warbler
Nightingale	Bearded Tit
Bluethroat	Willow tit
Common Redstart	Nuthatch
All owls	Short-toed treecreeper
All woodpeckers	Golden Oriole
All pipits	Carrion Crow
Yellow wagtail	Bullfinch
Whinchat	Hawfinch
Common stonechat	All buntings

The Grey-lag goose population is still increasing in De Weerribben with locally sometimes negative consequences for the development of the marshland. Large concentrations breed in the marshes on the edge of the reserve, such as around the town of Wetering and in the Lokkenpolder. In 2018, 460 pairs were recorded in the inventoried areas. In 2019, measures will be taken in a part of the areas to reduce the numbers through birth control.

This year too, there were a lot of Black-necked grebes in Wetering Oost: 51 pairs.

It was a record year for the Bittern; 18 territories were found in the surveyed areas, but there were at least 4 more outside the area. The new marshlands around Wetering in particular are a home for many territories. At least 9 pairs.

By means of a drone inventory, 10 pairs of Purple herons were recorded in Wetering West while another pair was found elsewhere in De Weerribben.

Black terns were found in three places. The largest breeding ground was in the Ramspolder with 16 pairs on floating mats. In Wetering West and Oost, 1 and 4 pairs respectively bred in natural locations.



In Wetering West, 5 pairs of Spotted crakes were found. Due to the frost in early spring, no breeding of Kingfishers was observed.

No fewer than 32 pairs of Common snipes were found, they bred mainly in the cut reedlands. Reed birds were found in normal numbers, and a special discovery was the presence of some Great reed warblers, the latter in Northwest Overijssel. As the woodlands age, more and more woodland species are found. This year, Wood warbler and Nuthatch were observed to be breeding, as well as many large and small Woodpeckers.

Special observations:

This year, the number of observations of the White-tailed eagle has increased sharply; in the autumn there were regularly one or two birds in Wetering Oost and West. Both the Little crane and Baillon's crane were heard; territories were not established. In the autumn, there were 3 Caspian terns for a while in Wetering Oost.

Fish:

The Pike monitoring group again surveyed De Weerribben this year, see attached document. Pike numbers are still good and balanced. Catches do not include the smaller fish, because these are in smaller and densely-vegetated waters that are inaccessible to anglers.

2017

Mammals

It is 15 years ago this year that otters were reintroduced into the Netherlands. The starting population of 32 animals, which were released in De Weerribben-Wieden National Park, has now increased to 185 animals spread over seven provinces.

There are still obstacles, particularly on the north side of De Weerribben, that prevent the otter from migrating towards the province of Friesland. Within the framework of the PAS, work is being done on a connection between De Weerribben and the Rottige Meenthe marsh area in Friesland. This will resolve some of the obstacles, but the implementation will only take place in 2021.

Last winter, a Raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) stayed in De Weerribben. Within the framework of a national investigation into the behaviour of raccoon dogs in the Netherlands, attempts have been made to catch and tag the animal. However, these were not successful.

Despite the many wildlife exits, two badgers (*Meles meles*) drowned last winter in the Steenwijk Ossenzijl canal, which runs along the east side of De Weerribben. These were the first observations of this marten species in the area. The badgers probably came from around the woodlands on the higher grounds around Steenwijk, east of De Weerribben. The badger is increasing significantly here, so we expect that more observations will be made in the future.

Birds

Many Kingfishers were spotted this year with around 16 pairs breeding in the Wieden.

This year, 2017, 16 breeding pairs of Great bitterns, 21 pairs of Marsh harriers, 76 pairs of Purple herons, and 114 pairs of Black terns bred here, 3 pairs of which on natural material. There was an increase in the number of Black terns this year, this is an opportunistic species.

There were many foraging Purple herons and Spoonbills observed in De Wieden. Other special species observed in the new marshes were Glossy ibis, Cattle egret, Little egret, Little gull, Red-necked grebe, Little tern, White-winged tern and Whiskered tern. The number of sightings of Osprey and White-tailed eagle are increasing, it may be the start of a breeding attempt.

In 2017, a total of 1,150 ha were surveyed for breeding birds in De Weerribben, which is approximately a third of the area. In the northeast, a block of 845 ha was investigated in which the following rare species were found: 2 pairs of Marsh harriers, 4 pairs of Bitterns, 23 pairs of Common snipe, 19 pair of Grasshopper warblers, 27 pairs of Savi's warblers, 195 pairs of Sedge warblers, 11 pairs of Bluethroats.

Furthermore, the Woldlakerbos area in the southeast was surveyed for breeding birds, there were only a few marshbirds here: 1 pair of Bitterns, 1 Common snipe, 3 Grasshopper warblers, 6 Sedge warblers. There were significantly high numbers of Yellowhammers, no fewer than 19 pairs, we also counted many Golden orioles: 6 pairs.

Black terns have bred in 2 locations in De Weerribben, both on breeding rafts. Thirty pairs bred on the old site near the neighbourhood of Nederland, there was a new nesting place in the central part,

which had 1 pair. In the new Wetering East and West marshes, geese did particularly well with no fewer than 180 pairs. Furthermore, the Purple heron colony in Wetering West expanded from 5 to 19 pairs. No fewer than 7 pairs of Bittern were found in the two areas, about half De Weerribben population. Furthermore, there were 4 Bearded tit territories and 2 for Baillon's crakes.

In addition to rare breeding birds, many rare migrants and winter guests used the area such as the White-tailed eagle, Osprey, Hen harrier, Great grey shrike, Red-necked grebe, Little gull, White-winged Black tern, the Whiskered tern, and even Little terns were observed.

#### Dragonflies

An inventory was carried out in De Wieden. Started in 2013, this inventory now includes the whole Wieden area, a report of this was prepared. An extraordinary sight is the dozens the Small pearl-bordered fritillary (*Boloria selene*) that are often seen in June. The Dainty white-faced darter (*Leucorrhinia caudalis*) was also increasingly observed at more locations in 2016. The Spotted darter (*Sympetrum depressiusculum*) was seen this year for the first time in De Wieden, and the Large white-faced darter (*Leucorrhinia pectoralis*) is seen everywhere in wind-free locations. This inventory in De Wieden was restarted in 2017 so that, in 2021, the entire Park will have been surveyed for butterflies, dragonflies and grasshoppers.

In De Weerribben, a two-year inventory of dragonflies, grasshoppers, and butterflies was carried out, ending in 2017. Here are some results: the Spotted darter is still doing very well; there is a large population of some hundred Spotted darters in the central section of De Weerribben and many new populations have been found throughout the area. The Dainty white-faced Darter is still booming in De Weerribben, and it can be found in every site where there is shallow water, especially in reed fields where sods are cut. The species has now also been found outside De Weerribben in de Wieden and other marshes; these are populations that originated from De Weerribben. The Norfolk damselfly is still only seen flying in one spot and is therefore very vulnerable. The population consists of around 2,000 individuals. In total 50 species of dragonflies are found in De Weerribben, it is one the most important dragonfly areas in the Netherlands.

#### Butterflies.

In recent years, a fauna inventory was carried out in the whole of De Wieden. The Grizzled skipper (*Pyrgus malvae*) was seen in some new locations, and the Small pearl-bordered fritillary (*Boloria selene*) was also seen again in large numbers. One Large copper (*Lycaena dispar batava*) is believed to have been observed in De Wieden this year.

Behind the scenes, together with the Province and Staatsbosbeheer, we are working hard on a new plan for the return of the Large copper. The connection with De Weerribben in particular will be improved.

In De Weerribben, there were more sightings of the Large copper butterfly, than in previous years. This is probably due to the postponed start of the mowing of the haylands, so there was already an area of habitat. In the egg counting site of the Large copper no big differences were seen. On some sites there was a decline, but on others there was an increase in this butterfly. In 2017 more attention was given to the protection of the reproduction sites and the feeding areas. In the eastern part of De Weerribben in particular, a lot of egg locations were found and protected.

#### 2016

##### Mammals

The otter population is doing very well in De Weerribben and De Wieden. In 2016, an Alterra report was published (Otter results Netherlands 2015-2016) giving the number of otters (172) in the Netherlands.

One third of the otter population is found in the restocking areas with 32 in De Wieden, 26 in De Weerribben and 8 in the Rottige Meenthe.

One of the otters found in De Weerribben appeared to be 11 years old. An inventory of small mammals in De Weerribben made clear that there is a growing population of Eurasian Water shrew, a Red List species.

##### Birds

Many Kingfishers were spotted this year with around 16 pairs breeding in De Wieden.

This year, 2016, 19 breeding pairs of Great bitterns, 12 pairs of Marsh harriers, 109 pairs of Purple herons, and 132 pairs of Black terns bred here, 2 pairs of which on natural material. There was an increase in the number of Black terns this year, this is an opportunistic species. De Weerribben: the new marshes in Wetering Oost and West are still developing into bird-rich marshes. In 2015, there

were 6 pairs of Great bitterns, 2 pairs of Marsh harriers, 2 pairs of Common terns, 2 pairs of Little crakes and 1 of Baillon's crakes. Newcomers included a colony of 5 pairs of Purple herons. There were many foraging Purple herons and Spoonbills observed in De Wieden. Other special species observed in the new marshes were Glossy ibis, Cattle egret, Little egret, Little gull, Red-necked grebe, Little tern, White-winged tern and Whiskered tern. The number of sightings of Osprey and White-tailed eagle are increasing, it maybe the start of a breeding attempt

#### Dragonflies

An inventory was carried out in De Wieden. Started in 2013, this inventory now includes the whole Wieden area. An extraordinary sight is the dozens of Silver moon (*Boloria selene*) that are often seen in June. The Dainty white-faced darter was also increasingly observed at more locations in 2016. The Spotted darter was seen this year for the first time in De Wieden, and the Large white-faced darter is seen everywhere in wind-free locations.

In De Weerribben, a two-year inventory of dragonflies, grasshoppers, and butterflies was carried out, ending in 2016. Here are some results; the Spotted darter is still doing very well; there is a large population of some hundred Spotted darters in the central section of De Weerribben and many new populations have been found all-over the area. The Dainty white-faced darter is also booming in De Weerribben. Especially in the eastern part of the marsh, where many new populations were found. The species was also just found just outside De Weerribben, probably individuals that originated from the population in the conservation area itself. The Norfolk damselfly is still only seen flying in one spot and is therefore very vulnerable. The population consists of around 2,000 individuals. In total 50 species of dragonflies are found in De Weerribben, it is one the most important dragonfly areas in the Netherlands.

#### Butterflies.

In recent years, a fauna inventory was carried out in 50% of De Wieden. The Grizzled skipper was seen in some new locations, and the Small pearl-bordered fritillary was also seen again. Unfortunately, we did not see the Large copper in De Wieden this year. Behind the scenes, together with the Province and Staatsbosbeheer, we are working hard on a new plan for the return of the Large copper. The connection with De Weerribben in particular will be improved.

In De Weerribben, the population of the Large copper is comparable to that of last year. On some sites there was a decline, but on others there was an increase of this butterfly. Some reed fields were mown a few weeks later specifically to encourage the development of the Large copper caterpillars.

#### 2015

##### Mammals

The otter population is doing very well in De Weerribben and De Wieden. In the outcome of a legal action, won by the SON (Otter Nederland Foundation), the government is being held responsible for enabling otters to migrate in the best possible way. This has resulted in a variety of passages, even in water control structures. The Province has constructed otter passages at several locations.

##### Birds

Many Kingfishers were spotted this year with around 22 pairs breeding in De Wieden. This year, 21 breeding pairs of Great bitterns, 15 pairs of Marsh harriers, 98 pairs of Purple herons, and 93 pairs of Black terns bred here, 2 pairs of which on natural material. The number of Black terns is continuing to decrease and we still do not know why. De Weerribben: the new marshes in Wetering Oost and West are developing into bird-rich marshes. In 2015, 5 pairs of Great bitterns, 1 pair of Marsh harriers, 2 pairs of Common terns, 1 pair of Mediterranean gulls, 1 pair of Lesser black-backed gulls, 1 pair of Little crakes and 1 of Baillon's crakes and a territory of Whooper swans bred here. There were many foraging Purple herons and Spoonbills observed from De Wieden. Other special species observed in the new marshes were Glossy ibis, Cattle egret, Little egret, Red-crested pochard, Little gull, Red-necked grebe and Whiskered tern.

##### Dragonflies

In De Wieden, the Dainty white-faced darter was increasingly observed at more locations. The Red-veined darter and the Lesser emperor, both new in De Wieden, have both been spotted this year, and the Large white-faced darter is seen everywhere in De Wieden in windless spots. In De Weerribben an inventory was started in 2015 of dragonflies, grasshoppers, and butterflies. The Spotted darter is doing very well; there is a large population of some hundred Spotted darters in the central section of De Weerribben. At several locations, they were seen to be reproducing. On the eastern side, a large population of Dainty white-faced darters was observed. The Norfolk damselfly is still only seen flying in one spot. The population consists of around 2,000 individual butterflies.

In recent years, a fauna inventory was carried out in 50% of De Wieden. The Grizzled skipper was seen in some new locations, and the Small pearl-bordered fritillary was also seen again. Unfortunately, we did not see the Large copper in De Wieden this year. Behind the scenes, together with the province, we are working hard on a new plan for the Large copper. In De Weerribben, the Large copper was seen flying approx. 2 weeks later than in a normal year. In some places this is because some areas had already been mowed. In reaction to this exceptional situation, the mowing dates for a few spots were postponed. The position of the Large copper is comparable to that of last year.

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

### **7.1. Cultural heritage**

In De Weerribben, one of the authentic Tjasker mills has been renovated, this could be realised due to the tremendous efforts of volunteers.

In De Wieden, the peat shed was rebuilt after it had burnt down. The shed has been refurbished for visitors to the Visitor Centre. The story of peat winning in De Wieden is explained here.

The complete cultural history of De Wieden has been mapped out and a report will be published but is not available yet. Natuurmonumenten will highlight specific points throughout the area where the landscape itself demonstrates something about its history. The basis of this rapport is the advise rapport of 2013. See appendix 21.

In De Weerribben, a special Reed book was published by a local photographer focusing on the skilled craftsmanship of the Reed cutter.

#### **7.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage.**

In 2015, the Volunteer Group Kooi van Pen foundation was set up.

The purpose of the foundation is: to maintain the Kooi van Pen duck decoy pond, to maintain the cultural-historical landscape in the Kooi van Pen decoy pond, to preserve and transfer knowledge of the cultural-historical heritage of the decoy pond. Link <http://www.kooivanpen.nl/page1.php>.

### **7.2. Socio-economic context**

In 2016-2017, a study was carried out into the Values of the National Park label for De Weerribben-Wieden National Park, and describes the effects of the National Park label on the visits to De Weerribben-Wieden nature reserve. A panel survey shows that 25% say that the National Park label has played a (decisive) role in the decision to visit the nature reserve. Of the Dutch visitors, 34% say they responded to the 'National Park' label. The direct influence on the visits to De Weerribben-Wieden is limited. The study shows that tourists in particular determine the economic values of the National Park label for De Weerribben-Wieden and the residents mainly determine the socio-emotional values of the label. The economic added value of the label can be estimated between 10% and 40%. The socio-emotional values are important for increasing the ecological and economic importance of a National Park. It can increase support for the conservation and protection of natural areas. The affinity of people that is needed for this is present in and around De Weerribben-Wieden. This study was carried out by Wageningen Environmental Research (Alterra) commissioned and funded by De Weerribben-Wieden National Park (project number 5200043248) Wageningen Environmental Research Wageningen, March 2017. See appendix 18.

#### **7.2.1. Changes with respect to socio-economic context.**

In 2015, LEI Wageningen UR conducted a study for the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) into the applicability of business models for the conservation of existing nature in the Weerribben-Wieden National Park. This study was carried out within the framework of the Natural Capital Netherlands (NKN) programme. The PBL carried out this two-year programme in the period 2014-2016 on behalf of the Ministry of Economic Affairs. With the NKN programme, the PBL tries to offer governments, entrepreneurs and civil society organisations concrete tools for making investment and policy decisions in which nature and economy reinforce each other. See appendix 19.

## 8. Education and scientific interest

### 8.1. Visitors – Information policy

Since 2016, Natuurmonumenten has been maintaining and operating a ferry service between the various villages in the Wieden: Giethoorn, Blokzijl and St. Jansklooster. With a special electrically-driven boat (the ecoliner), cyclists and ramblers can experience the area better, both on land and on water, and recreational routes connect well with each other.

More than 172 entrepreneurs attended the Hosting Workshop. The aim of this workshop is to involve entrepreneurs more in the activities of the National Park, in nature and in local cultural-historical values

The Weerribben-Wieden Foundation intends to focus more on brand development in the area in the coming years. Through greater collaboration with its partners outside the National Park, these outside areas will also be referred to as the Weerribben-Wieden. In order to show the joint brand's visibility, with the permission of entrepreneurs, land management organisations and the municipality, a new logo has been developed which reflects the coherence and balance between ecology and economy.

#### 8.1.1. Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.)

In cooperation with Stichting Weerribben-Wieden and Marketing Oost, a new website has been made available for visitors to the region and the National Park with a reference to the site of the National Park <https://www.visitweerribbenwieden.com/Weerribben-Wieden/> or <http://www.np-weerribbenwieden.nl/>.

Many sign boards in De Wieden have been updated with improved and more modern explanations

The information panels in De Weerribben have been partly renewed using new designs and modern. In 2017, all the information panels in the field have been renewed and will now also have **information about the European Diploma.**

For anglers, in collaboration with the Oost Nederland Angling Federation and Staatsbosbeheer, new sign boards and leaflets were developed which state when angling is or is not allowed; it also has information about the European Diploma.

In 2017, zijn 3 beautiful books were published. 'The RIETboek' (the REED book), a book about reed and reed cutters in De Weerribben. 'Hollandse licht' ('Dutch light'), a book with landscape photographs and this autumn the book 'Vogels van Nationaal Park Weerribben Wieden' (Birds of De Weerribben Wieden National Park). This book describes the avifauna and provides the visitor with a great deal of information about characteristic breeding birds, the important biotopes and winter birds. The book was written by wardens Ronald Messemaker (Natuurmonumenten), Jeroen Bredenbeek (Staatsbosbeheer) and Obe Brandsma (volunteer meadow bird researcher).

#### 8.1.2. Attendance by visitors and behavior (number, distribution in time and space)

In 2018, the NBTC-Nipo research was commissioned by Staatsbosbeheer, Landschap Overijssel & the Province of Overijssel to carry out a 'visitor survey of natural areas in the province of Overijssel'. It shows that De Weerribben-Wieden National Park is visited annually by 1 million visitors. The appreciation of the area was rated with a score of 8.2., Of the visitors, 77% are over 35 years old. The activities that take place during a visit, beside the experience of nature's tranquillity and space, include hiking, biking and boating. See appendix 20 pages 104-105.

De Wieden Visitors' Centre (Natuurmonumenten) and the Staatsbosbeheer Outdoor Centre received 90,000 visitors per location.

#### 8.1.3. Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc)

Eddy van Hijum, Member of the Provincial Executive of the Province of Overijssel, paid a visit on 13 March in relation to land development and Natura 2000 (LI and N2000).

On behalf of the Council of Europe, Professor Maurice Hoffman visited the National Park on 29 and 30 August and spoke with various stakeholders, the Alderman of the Municipality of Steenwijkerland and the site-managing organisations.

On 25 August, a group of European peat experts visited De Weerribben and De Wieden. After an explanation about the management and hydrology of the areas, sites were visited in both De Wieden and De Weerribben.

De Weerribben-Wieden National Park, together with 12 other nature reserves, was nominated this year by the Ministry of Economic Affairs as one of the finest nature reserves in the Netherlands. This resulted in a lot of national media attention.

In 2016, State Secretary van Dam visited the national park for this purpose.

In the spring of 2016, 25 international students of landscape architecture, urban design and forest and nature conservation took part in Wageningen University's international Regional Landscaping master studio. The results of this master studio provide valuable input for the development of a new national standard for National Parks Supervision and were provided by Adriaan Geuze MSc, Sven Stremke Ph.D and Marinke Steenhuis Ph.D.

In 2015, the Butterfly Foundation [*Vlinderstichting*] celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a symposium about the Large copper, and many excursions were held.

## 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.).

Various studies are ongoing based on the N2000 Management Plan or will be carried out in the coming years.

For more information see the enclosed monitoring reports in appendices 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15.

### 8.2.2. Scientific publications

Oliveira Junior, Temmink et al 2018 FWB Benthivorous fish bioturbation methane greenhouse gas. See appendix 16

Van der Lee et al., 2018 Dissolved oxygen dynamics in drainage ditches along a eutrophication gradient. See appendix 17

*Values of the National Park label for the Weerribben-Wieden National Park*  
Wageningen Environmental Research (Alterra) commissioned and funded by the Weerribben-Wieden National Park (project number 5200043248). Wageningen Environmental Research Wageningen, March 2017. See appendix 18.

Financiering van bestaande natuur. Praktijkcasus 'Weerribben-Wieden'  
C.M. van der Heide<sup>1</sup>, C.M.A. Hendriks<sup>2</sup> en M.H. Borgstein<sup>1</sup>  
LEI Wageningen. UR Wageningen, mei 2016  
RAPPORT LEI 2016-056 ISBN 978-94-6257-811-1. See appendix 19.

Genetische monitoring van de Nederlandse otterpopulatie; Ontwikkeling van populatieomvang en genetische status Kuiters, A.T., G.A. de Groot, D.R. Lammertsma, H.A.H. Jansman & J. Bovenschen (2017). 2016/2017. Wettelijke Onderzoekstaken Natuur & Milieu. WOt-technical report 99. See appendix 6.

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

## 9.1. Changes in legislation or regulations

No changes

## 9.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentals, etc.)

No changes

## 9.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve)

No changes

**10. Site management (management plans, budget and personnel)**

## 10.1. Improvements made

The Wieden-Weerribben Natura 2000 Management Plan has been the official Management Plan for Weerribben-Wieden National Park since 2017.

Natuurmonumenten drew up a nature vision for the Wieden in 2016.

Staatsbosbeheer adopted the Management Plan for De Weerribben.

The Weerribben-Wieden Foundation has drawn up a vision document for the National Park.

The aim is to strengthen and improve the interaction between nature and the surrounding landscape, including agriculture and recreation.

## 10.1.1. Ecological action effecting flora and biotopes; fauna control.

A wide range of projects are being started for the Large copper and its related species, but these are all still in the preparatory stage. This also applies to many other N2000 target species for which external and internal measures are necessary.

This will be reported on in the coming years.

There are very many Grey-lag geese in the new Wetering Oost (Weerribben) wetland. The area is used for breeding and sleeping. Due to their grazing activities, the reed vegetation is sharply deteriorating. It was therefore decided to lower the water level significantly in this part of the marshland, making it less attractive for the geese to stay there and allowing the marsh vegetation to recover.

In the southern part of the Weerribben, in order to strengthen the local Large copper population, Greater water dock was planted in two places and in a marsh area where the plant was almost non-existent. This involved about 100 plants per location. The action was successful, eggs of the Large copper were found at one location.

## 10.1.2. Protection against the elements (fire, water regime)

After an urgent request, the Water Board has let water in up to the highest point. Up to -0.73 was let in. This was done mainly through the normal inlet: Stroink. This was running at 95% of its capacity and is the maximum that was possible in that period. For about 3 days, extra water was let in from the Meppelerdiep at the weir at Beukers.

There were major concerns from the TBOs regarding the drying out of the floating fens. They were completely dry and withered as a result of the drought. Since the floating fen vegetation is semi-aquatic, it is important that it has enough water to survive. It took a long time before the Water Board was able to respond to our request because of the complicated and 'strict' ordinance relating to the water level. From a legal point of view, it was necessary to investigate whether they could deviate from the ordinance and that took a long time.

Ultimately, the outcome is that the Water Board wants to be more active in letting water in than in the past, with the aim of maintaining rare habitat types such as floating fen. In 2019, a pilot will be first carried out and the results will subsequently lead to adjusting the water level ordinance.

## 10.1.3. Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)

No change

#### 10.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities)

No change

#### 10.1.5. Waste management

No change

#### 10.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems

No change

### 10.2. Management

The State and the province of Overijssel have delegated the tasks in regard to the National Parks to the municipality of Steenwijkerland. A core team in which the various interested parties and organisations responsible for the management of the Parks are represented, is considering the position of the New-Style National Park. The site management organisations, Natuurmonumenten and Staatsbosbeheer are and will remain responsible for the management of nature in the Weerribben-Wieden areas.

#### 10.2.1. Administrative department: changes made

No change

#### 10.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made

Natuurmonumenten, the Management Team was reinforced with two wardens for communication and for optimising the experiential aspects, and two further wardens for monitoring and management activities respectively. Staatsbosbeheer has reinforced its team with two wardens for ecology and one for management

#### 10.2.3. Internal policing measures.

No change

#### 10.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

No change

## 11. Influence of the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas

In 2015, the government decided to expand Lelystad Airport, which needs to be operational for tourist flights in 2019. The new airport will have flights approaching from all corners of the world, including from above the province of Overijssel. The final approach routes have now been published.

At most places in the Kop van Overijssel, Salland and the Vechtdal areas, the aeroplanes will be flying over Overijssel at an altitude of 6,000 feet (1,500-1,800 metres). For the National Park this means that one of the routes will fly over the nature reserve. And there will be a type of holding stack above the National Park, where aeroplanes will continue to circle until they receive permission to land at Lelystad Airport. We do not exactly know what this means in terms of emissions above the area and the resulting disruption to people and animals. Many concerned residents have filed a petition with the authorities and are opposed to these low approach routes. On behalf of its members, Natuurmonumenten has submitted an opinion on this expansion of Lelystad Airport, <https://www.natuurmonumenten.nl/over-natuurmonumenten/pers-en-nieuws/nieuws/zienswijze-natuurmonumenten-uitbreiding-lelystad-airport>. The province, municipalities and private organisations



have indicated that the Weerrribben-Wieden National Park is an ED area. This has led so far to a revision of the plans for parking and approach routes. Unfortunately, this is not yet final.