

Renewal EDPA
expert report 3rd renewal

Oostvaardersplassen NR

The Netherlands

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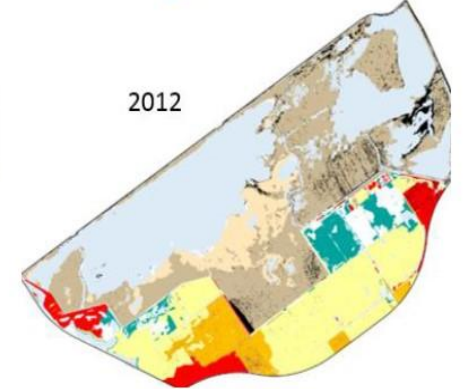
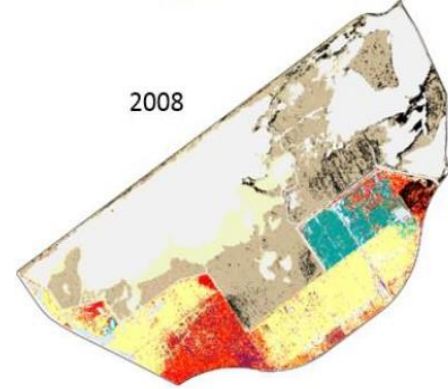
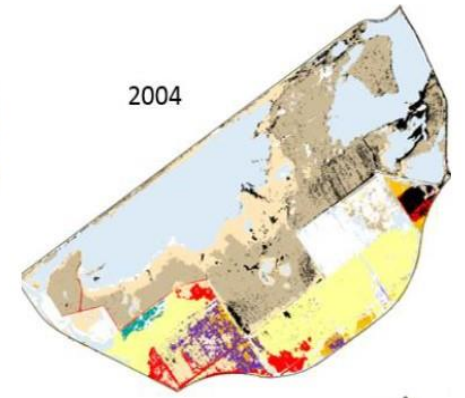
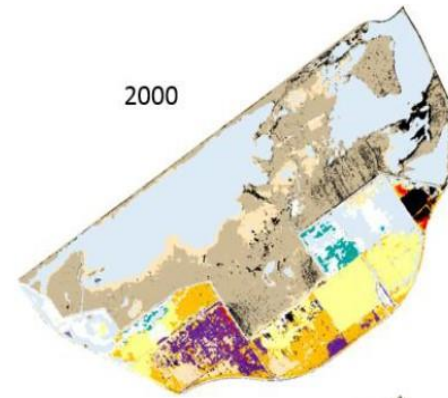
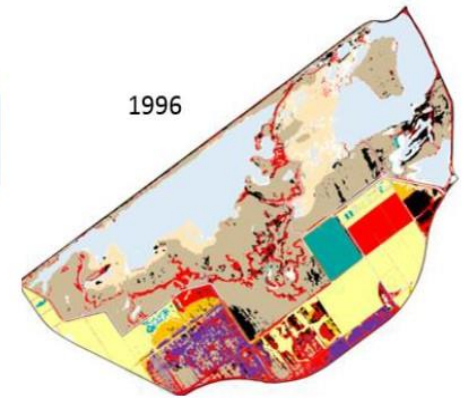
© *Jasja Dekker, aerial view of the marshland area of the Nature Reserve Oostvaardersplassen*

Oostvaardersplassen NR –

history

- 1968 in ordering Flevoland
- 1974 construction of quay to preserve marsh
- 1982 construction of railway
- 1983 introduction heck cattle
- 1984 introduction of konik horses
- 1986 designation as a natural monument
- 1989 designation as a Birds Directive
- 1989 designation as Wetland under the Ramsar Convention
- 1992 introduction of red deer
- 1996 in management Staatsbosbeheer
- 1999 Appraisal of the European diploma for protected areas (EDPA)
- 1999 Establishing Ethical Guidelines
- 2000 Establishing the Guidelines for Large Grazers by the House of Representatives
- 2004 Renewal of the European diploma for protected areas (EDPA)
- 2005 Parliamentary debate on winter mortality in OVP
- 2006 ICMO report on Oostvaardersplassen management
- 2007 Court of Appeal ruling on the big grazers
- 2009 Second renewal European diploma for protected areas (EDPA)
- 2010 Final designation decision Natura 2000 published
- 2010 ICMO report evaluation management
- 2010 Parliamentary debate about bringing forward the evaluation of nature policy
- 2011 First helicopter count of large grazers
- 2013 Film “De Nieuwe Wildernis” is presented and attracts over 700 000 visitors
- 2016 Natura 2000 management plan is established
- 2017 Agreement between the Ministry of Economic Affairs and GS Province Flevoland
- 2017 Province of Flevoland: initiative proposal Oostvaardersplassen area
- 2018 50 years of Oostvaardersplassen and 100 years of Zuiderzee law
- 2018 Commission van Geel: advice management Oostvaardersplassen

Management



Large herbivore management



Condition 1

In the context of the development of the Lelystad airport ensure that the flight paths as determined in 2016 exclude overflights of the Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve. Obviously, in case the airport is expanded for larger planes and intercontinental flights in the future, the same condition holds.



Condition 2

The N2000 management plan should be integrally implemented in order to maintain the top reasons of the original EDPA appraisal, i.e. the large bird diversity and the Minimal Intervention Ecosystem Approach, with as limited as possible human intervention in large herbivore dynamics, but at the same time with great emphasis on an appropriate water dynamics management as given in the N2000 management plan. Hence, the Van Geel advice should not be implemented.

Recommendation 1

Thoroughly monitor the effects of future flight activities at Lelystad Airport on birds, achievement of Natura 2000 goals, recreational impact and interest and general tranquillity of the core area and buffer zones of the Oostvaarderplassen Nature Reserve.

Recommendation 2

To give the Minimal Intervention Ecosystem Approach optimal chances in its contributions to management goals, the recommendation 6 of the 2009 expert report would best be partly implemented, i.e. the further extension of the reserve through establishing a wide corridor to Horsterwold, with free access of large herbivores to both corridor and Horsterwold.

Recommendation 3

Maintain and further strengthen the cooperation between the management authorities, the surrounding municipalities and the province in order to limit the impacts on the Nature Reserve when reviewing urbanisation and zoning plans and ensure enough buffer zones around the core area of the Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve.



Recommendation 4

In cooperation with all layers of stakeholders (representatives of the local and regional authorities, managing authorities, scientists, NGOs and civil society associations) design a transparent and widely accepted control mechanism of the populations of large herbivore mammals. Keep on raising awareness and keep on informing the public at large about the objectives of such a mechanism, about its direct effect on animal welfare, and about its impact in the long term on the biodiversity of the nature reserve.

Recommendation 5

Following the integration of the edge zones – i.e. Hollandse Hout, Oostvaardersveld, Kotterbos and Oostvaardersbos - into the nature reserve, finalise their management plans and ensure they are consistent with the management of the core area of the nature reserve.

Recommendation 6

Monitor the increase and impact of visitors to avoid any negative impact either on the quality of recreational experience or on the natural values of the Oostvaarderplassen Nature Reserve. Take remediating measures if monitoring results indicate negative effects on the intrinsic values of the NR.

Recommendation 7

Give more visibility to the logo of the European Diploma and raise awareness about its aims and objectives on the website of the nature reserve, through social media, flyers, brochures, website and information panels in the visitor's centres and in the field.

Note to the Council: This approach would be very much helped if the Council would pay more attention to advertising the network of EDPA's; the Council website, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/bern-convention/european-diploma-for-protected-areas>, is presently limited in that respect. The EDPA sites should be much more profiled as a (the) European network of pristine sites with European significance. Initiatives could also be taken to select ecosystems that are relevant at the European level, and then consequently stimulate member states actively to apply for an EDPA when the ecosystems present in those member states are of European importance. The total of areas would ideally be representative of pristine examples of Europe's ecosystems and biodiversity hot spots in all biogeographical regions of Europe.

Recommendation 8

Pursue the reflection about the creation of the National Park Nieuw Land encompassing the Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve and envisage applying for the European Diploma for the national park.

