



Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

As approved by Rec.C.4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Montreux, Switzerland - July 1990

NOTE: Please read the accompanying guidelines before attempting to complete this form. An example of a completed data sheet is also included.

Completed sheets should be returned to: T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England

1. Country: The Netherlands 2. Date: 1-2-1993 3. Ref: office use only NLD02

4. Name and address of compiler:
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature management and Fisheries
P.O. Box 20401
2500 EK The Hague / The Netherlands

5. Name of wetland: Weerribben

6. Date of Ramsar designation: 23 May 1980

7. Geographical coordinates: 52°37' N 5°55' E

8. General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town)
In the province of Overijssel, approximately 15 km north north west of the city of Zwolle

9. Area: (in hectares)
3400

10. Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec.C.4.7)
(4)

11. Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum)
-0.7 to 0.0 (waterlevel) - +0.1 (highest part marshland) m N.A.P. (average m + N.A.P.)

12. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)
The Weerribben forms together with the nearby Wieden a remnant of a former vast low peatland area. It has partly been used for peat cutting, resulting in a very varied landscape with all stages of peat formation.

13. Physical features: (e.g. geology; geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth; water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)
Most of the fenlands and open water broads are the result of over-intensive peat cutting which exposed the remaining peatstrips to wind erosion. Due to the fact that peat cutting in the Weerribben was less intensive and more regulated than in the Wieden. The wetland is surrounded by reclaimed polders. Run-off from this agricultural land is being discharged into the "Vollenhaen boezem" (a system of reservoirs for superfluous polder water) part of which lies in the Weerribben. The original hydrology has been changed by the reclamation of the Noordoostpolder see 20

14. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)
The Weerribben consists of open water ponds, floating mat of vegetation in former peat holes, reed marshes, quaking bogs, wet meadows, shrubby marshes and woodlands (climax vegetation).

15. Land tenure /ownership of:

(a) site predominantly state ownership

(b) surrounding area

multiple private ownership, including the Society for the Protection of Natural Monuments in case of de Wieden

16. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

The Veerribben is designated as Ramsar-site and as SPA under the EC Wild Birds Directive (1986). The area has been designated as National Park recently (1992).

17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

see 24.

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

(a) site -reed-cutting

- fishing
- hunting (strictly controlled)
- stock-raising

(b) surroundings/catchment

nature conservation (nature reserve de Wieden), recreation (mainly water-sport)
stock-raising and some agriculture (arable land).

19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:

(factors which may have a negative impact on the ecological character of the wetland)

(a) at the site

- eutrophication by the inlet of nutrient rich water (see 24)
- reed cutting (is considered to be too intensive by many ornithologists)
- decline in traditional management which have been maintaining the wetland habitat (potential threat)

(b) in the surroundings/catchment

recreation (development of recreational facilities, enlarging the pressure on the wetland)

20. Hydrological and physical values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc.)

see 14.

in the Ysselmeer, minimizing seepage in the wetland.

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Cirsio-Molinietum (thistle moor grass) community dominating natural meadows; shrubby marshes and woodland of bog myrtle *Myrica gale*, birch *Betula pubescens*, buckthorn *Frangula alnus* and common alder *Alnus glutinosa*. The dark sedge *Carex buxbaumii* (threatened throughout Europe) occurs in the transition zone between the quaking bog and the drier unmanured pastures.

21. Social and cultural values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

Current land use is only of minor economical importance.

The area is of high scenic value and historical value as it shows the remains of a former land use in all its details. In order to cut reed as long as possible small dykes were built together with small windmills, thus highering the water level artificially. These windmills belong to the local type called "Tjasker".

22. Noteworthy fauna: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important species; include count data etc.)

Concerning birds the wetland is very important as breeding area for marsh birds. The Weerribben has for example a colony of Purple Herons (*Ardea purpurea*). In contrast to the nearby Wieden the Weerribben is of lesser importance for wintering waterfowl. (The first area has large lakes and more wet meadows). For more information on birdlife one is referred to Grimmett and Jones (site 27).

The fauna is rich with numerous species of wetland mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates like dragonflies and butterflies. These species include the highly localised large copper butterfly *Lycena dispar*. The area may also hold a small population of the endangered mouse species *Microtus arvicola*, which is considered to be a relict from the Ice Age.

23. Noteworthy flora: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, or biogeographically important species/communities etc.)

The diversity of vegetation types is of great botanical interest, and includes various stages of the aquatic hydrochrito-Stratiotetum succession in the open water ponds; the floating mat of vegetation in former peat holes (quaking bogs) comprising numerous species such as sphagnum moss, bog bean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, two-stemmed sedge *Carex diandra*, downy-fruited sedge *Carex lasiocarpa*, slender cotton grass *Eriophorum gracile*, fen orchid *Liparis loeselii*, early marsh orchid *Daetylorchis incarnata*, water forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides*, Pancassu grass, *Panassia palustris* and bladderwort *Utricularia intermedia*; reedmarsh dominated by *Phragmites australis*;

24. **Current scientific research and facilities:** (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)
 There is no field station in the Weerribben. Current research programs concern some monitoring projects (vegetation, breeding birds and insects) and an eco-hydrological study for the wetland and its surroundings in order to look for solutions to improve the water quality and management.
25. **Current conservation education:** (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)
 The area has a visitors centre in the fringe area of the wetland.
26. **Current recreation and tourism:** (state if wetland used for recreation/tourism; indicate type & frequency/intensity)
 In the area is scattered human habitation with concentrations along the main canals. Many old houses are used as second house nowadays. In the fringe area there are several camping-sites. The main canal through the area, which leads to the Frisian Lakes, is used very intensively in the summer by all kinds of boats. Smaller canals which run into the nature reserve are sometimes open for small boats like canoes; others are closed permanently.
27. **Management authority:** (name and address of body responsible for managing the wetland)
 Staatsbosbeheer, Regio (State Forestry Service) Region Overijssel
 Postbus 8 / P.O. box 8
 7447 ZG Hellendoorn
28. **Jurisdiction:** (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept of Environment etc.)
 Functional: ^{Ministry} Dept. of Agriculture, Nature management and Fisheries
 Territorial: Province of Overijssel
 Municipality of IJsselham
29. **Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only)
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30. **Reasons for inclusion:** (state which Ramsar criteria - as adopted by Rec.C.4.15 of the Montreux Conference - are applicable)
 1. (a)
 2. (a) (b) (c)
 3. (c)
31. **Map of site** (please enclose the most detailed and up-to-date map available - preferably at least 1:25,000 or 1:50,000)
 already in your possession

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