



7 N L 010

# 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: 14-2-1992 3. Ref: office use only NLØ1Ø

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: Oostvaardersplassen

6. Date of Ramsar designation: 2 June 1989

7. Geographical coordinates: 52° 27' N 5° 20' E

8. General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town)  
In the province of Flevoland, approximately 2 km south west of the city IJlstad

9. Area: (in hectares)  
5600

10. Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec.C.4.7)  
5

11. Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum)  
average: -4 m. (NAP)

12. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

The Oostvaardersplassen is a spontaneously evolved complex of shallow lakes, reedbeds and Salix woodlands, which has been saved from cultivation on a reclaimed polder. The area also includes some wet meadows and arable land.

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)

The Oostvaardersplassen concerns one of the lowest parts of the reclaimed polder Zuidelijk Flevoland. The ~~ground~~ soil type is calciferous clay, which allows for an abundant plant growth. The area is divided in several sections with different water regimes. In one section the water level is officially kept high, although restricted fluctuations are allowed. This section is surrounded by a small dike. In the other section, originally higher than the enclosed section, but due to shrinkage now 20 cm lower, the water level is ~~the same as the~~ defined by the official polder level.

14. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

The area is a good example of young marshes on clay soil. The section inside the dike is dominated by large plants of Phragmites australis and Typha latifolia and Salix woodlands. The area outside the dike is dominated by small plants of Phragmites australis, Urtica dioica and other <sup>nitrophilous</sup> ~~nitrophilous~~ plants ~~and~~ shrubs like Sambucus nigra and Salix woodlands. Beside marshes the area outside the dike contains ~~also~~ extensively grazed grasslands, important as feeding areas for geese (esp. Anser anser).

Wetland Types <sup>7 N L 010</sup>  
Tp. O, Xp  
nat: S  
MS 19-7-02

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**15. Land tenure /ownership of:**

(a) site The total area is owned by the State

(b) surrounding area

Predominately State ownership; however crable land is leased to farmers.

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**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 area is designated as a Ramsar site (2-6-1989) and as a Special Protection Area under the EC Wild Birds Directive (1989). The Oostvaardersplassen has also been designated under the Nature Conservation Act and thus receives full legal protection.

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

~~none~~ none

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**18. Current land use: principal human activities in:**

(a) site nature conservation and pastoral agriculture

(b) surroundings/catchment

recreation (water-sport), forestry, and agriculture (crable land)

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**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

none known

(b) in the surroundings/catchment

none known



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

The area has no specific hydrological <sup>or</sup> physical values.

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

The area is very important for scientific research. Due to the relatively large scale of the area it is very suitable for spontaneous <sup>and</sup> natural processes <sup>(self-arrangement)</sup> and needs only the introduction of large herbivores.

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

The Oostvaardersplassen is a very important breeding site for marshbirds, including Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis (2000 pairs), Botaurus stellaris (5 pairs), Ardea purpurea (2 pair), Ardea Platalea leucorodia (60 pairs), Anser anser (100-200 pairs), Circus aeruginosus (50 pairs), C. cyaneus (5 pairs), Rallus aquaticus (1000-2000 pairs), Porzana porzana (100-200 pairs), Recurvirostra avosetta (250-400 pairs), Limosa limosa (10 pairs), Sterna hirundo (125 pairs), Actitis flammea (2-3 pairs), Luscinia svecica (100-150 pairs), Acrocephalus arundinaceus (20-50 pairs) and Panarus biarmicus (500-1000 pairs). Newcomers are Remiz pendulinus and Carpodacus erythrinus. ~~Ardea herodias~~ Egretta alba may breed in the area, while also F. garzetta, Ixobrychus minutus and Nycticorax nycticorax are spotted yearly. In 1991 Himantopus himantopus ~~was introduced to the area and failed to breed~~ <sup>was introduced to the area</sup>. ~~It did not breed in the area and its only success was a unsuccessful breeding attempt.~~

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

The Oostvaardersplassen is the main site for Senecio congestus in Europe.

ad 22. Additional passage/wintering birds include Branta leucopsis (1000-3000), Anser fabalis (4000-15000), A. albifrons (25,000 - 60,000 [30,000 moulting]), Anas strepera (500-1500), A. crecca (5000-15000), A. platyrhynchos (35,000-50,000), A. acuta (15,000-30,000), A. clypeata (5000-7000), Aythya fuligula (5000-10,000), Mergus albellus (5000-10,000), M. meganser (5000), Haliaeetus albicilla (2-5), Buteo lagopus (10-20), Platlea leucorodia (300-600), Recurvirostra avosetta (4000-6000), Philomachus pugnax (2000-5000), Limosa limosa (5000-10,000), Chlidonias niger (30,000) and Riparia riparia (tens of thousands).

Large grazing mammals include Roe deer, Red deer (introduced), Heek cow and Konik (introduced).

**24. Current scientific research and facilities:** (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

There are no research facilities. Colonies of Cormorant are monitored. Feeding ecology of several heron species is studied.

**25. Current conservation education:** (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

There is one visitors centre situated between the Oostvaardersplassen and the Lepelaarsplassen, another wetland. It brings out small information booklets on several subjects. The Oostvaardersplassen counts three hides. Two are situated on the eastern border of the area and are open to the public. Another one near the Cormorant colony is only to visit on ~~guided~~ guided trips.

**26. Current recreation and tourism:** (state if wetland used for recreation/tourism; indicate type & frequency/intensity)

The area itself is not open to the public, except for the two hides. However, from the surrounding dikes a lot of birdwatching is done. Excursions/tours with a guide are held regularly in the area.

**27. Management authority:** (name and address of body responsible for managing the wetland)

Dept. of Traffic and <sup>Public Affairs</sup> ~~Transportation~~, Directory Flevoland, P.O. box 600, 8200 AP Lelystad, The Netherlands

In 1994 the Oostvaardersplassen will be transferred to the State Forestry Service (SBB)

**28. Jurisdiction:** (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept of Environment etc.)

Functional: Dept. of Traffic and Public Affairs  
Dept. of Agriculture, Nature management and Fisheries  
Territorial: Province of Flevoland  
Municipality of Lelystad

**29. Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only)

**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(a), (b), (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)

is already in your possession.

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