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AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS
(The Hague, 1995)

Implementation during the period 2002 and 2004

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1. Overview of Action Plan implementation

This report for the third Meeting of the Parties (MoP) covers the implementation period 2002-2004. It provides information about Dutch initiatives and best practice in relation to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their wetland habitats, in the context of the AEWA Action Plan.

The Netherlands has a long history of international collaboration to conserve waterbirds since it holds important waterbird breeding areas, is a major wintering area, and is strategically located on important migration routes. The Netherlands has strongly supported the development of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds Agreement (AEWA).

The Dutch Legislation on wildlife management and hunting fulfils the obligations of the AEWA Agreement and the Action Plan.

As presented in the following report the implementation of actions mentioned in the Action Plan has been undertaken since many years, e.g. establishing of nature reserves in a National Ecological Network including hunting and disturbance free zones, restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands, persecution of alien invasive species, campaign to reduce crippling, enhancing the local stakeholder dialogue regarding species management and hunting, etc.

1.1 Summary of progress to date

The Birds Directive provides a framework for the implementation of the provisions of AEWA in the Netherlands. With the aid of both the Birds and Habitats Directives sites have been selected as protected areas (SPA's and pSCI's). These sites belong to the European Natura2000 network. The Natura2000 network in the Netherlands is almost complete. In the future the Netherlands will designate marine Natura2000 sites and after this the Natura2000 network will be complete.

Compared with the Birds Directive, the AEWA provides more extensive regulations in terms of hunting and monitoring. Since 1993, using lead shot for hunting waterbirds in and near wetlands has been restricted in the Netherlands. Since 2002 lead shot has been totally restricted in the Netherlands.

Monitoring of birds and sites is since a very long period an important activity in the Netherlands. The Dutch Network for Ecological Monitoring engages thousands of volunteer- birdwatchers and provides statistically reliable data on status and trends of species and sites of national and international importance.

1.2 Outline of planned actions for national implementation over the next three years

For the Birds and Habitats Directives the following actions are planned for the next years:

- Development of monitoring according to the European legislation (Birds and Habitats Directives);
- Development of Natura2000 management plans specific for all Natura2000 sites, obligatory according to the new Nature protection law (1-10-2005) in the Netherlands. This new nature protection law is the juridical implementation of the Birds and Habitats in the Netherlands.
- In accordance with the procedure of article 4 of the Habitats Directive the Netherlands will designate the sites (pSCI's) as a special area of conservation (SAC's).

1.3 Outline of priorities for international co-operation over the next three years

Concerning the external cooperation and relations of the AEWA, the Netherlands are strongly in favor of an intense cooperation between the international (CBD, CMS, AEWA, CITES, Birds Directive, Habitats Directive, PEEN, and others) nature-conservation conventions, directives and initiatives, in order to realise more synergy, and in order to allow a more effective and integrated communication to politicians and the general public.

Another priority for international cooperation is the harmonisation of procedures and reporting systems, which is also intended to give a higher degree of efficiency and to prevent "double work".

From the Dutch point of view, Natura2000 is of particular importance for the conservation of species and habitats in a coherent system of protected areas, providing the necessary connectivity, landscape-permeability and resilience for the long term survival of species and ecosystems at a European level. Other important initiatives on the European level related to the realisation of systems of protected areas are the Emerald Network and the Pan European Ecological Network, which initiatives are also supported by the Dutch government.

The Netherlands intend to intensify the cooperation with Germany and Denmark, on the protection and the integrated management and reporting of the Wadden Sea, amongst others by harmonizing the monitoring obligations from the Birds and Habitats Directives, also encompassing a possible nomination of the Wadden Sea as a world heritage-site under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

A priority-activity in the field of international co-operation and monitoring for the next three years is working with Wetlands International and other organisations to further develop the scope and strategic importance of the International Waterbird Census (IWC) and associated waterbird monitoring throughout Africa and Eurasia. The further development of the IWC is essential for monitoring the effectiveness of AEWA and other policy measures aiming at the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their (wetland) habitats.

2. Species conservation

2.1 National policy/strategy

All of the AEWA species are covered by the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). In the Netherlands both parts of the Birds Directive, the habitat protection part and the species protection part, are fully implemented.

2.2 Legal measures

See under 4.

2.3 Single species action plans

In preparation:

Crex crex

Being implemented:

Ixobrychus minutus

Nycticorax nycticorax

Botaurus stellaris

Ardea purpurea

Platalea leucorodia

Netta rufina

Porzana porzana

Chlidonias niger

Locustella luscinioides

Acrocephalus arundinaceus

Panurus biarmicus

Luscinia svecica

2.4 Emergency measures taken

None.

2.5 Re-establishments

The re-establishment program for *Ciconia ciconia* has been completed successfully.

2.6 Introduction

The introduction of non-native species and captive bred specimens of indigenous species is strictly prohibited. For neozoa that have definitely become established, such as *Branta canadensis* and *Oxyura jamaicensis*, an action plan is in preparation.

3. Habitat conservation

3.1 Habitat inventories

Has your country developed and published inventories of important habitats for species covered by the Agreement? If yes, please provide details, including any provisions to maintain or update these inventories.

In the Netherlands 79 areas, mainly internationally important wetlands, have been designated as Special Protection Areas (SPA's) according to the EEC Birds Directive. 44 of these are Ramsar Sites according to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. (Boschplaat and Griend are included in the Waddensea) These SPA's and Ramsar-sites are not only designated for waterbird species, but it is assumed that the SPA's cover the set of sites relevant under AEWA. The SPA's all lay in the national ecological network, which connects all important nature areas in the Netherlands. See also appendix 2.

Furthermore a list of "Important Bird Areas", set up by the leading ornithological associations, points at sites that can be of particular importance for waterbird populations. (See references)

Information on these sites has been published in documents and on the home page of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality:
www.minlnv.nl/natuurwetgeving

3.2 Conservation of areas

Has your country undertaken a strategic review of sites to develop a national network of important sites or areas for species covered by the Agreement? Please append a list of identified sites of international importance.

See 3.1 and appendix 2.

3.3 Legal frameworks

Describe the legal frameworks and other measures through which sites (including transfrontier sites) including of international importance gain practical protection. (Please append a list of internationally important protected sites.)

Natura2000

Article 4 of the EC Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) requires Member States of the European Union to establish SPA's (see 3.1), where there are appropriate means of conserving Annex I and/or migratory bird species, including the species covered by the Agreement. This is implemented in the Netherlands through the "Amended Nature Conservation Act 1998" and the "Flora and Fauna Act".

The Nature Conservation Act is designed for the protection of areas including making of management plans and assessment of impacts of activities in or nearby the sites. This will ensure that future projects, which may affect the Natura2000 areas, will be evaluated most carefully. In addition to nature area protection regulated under the Wild Birds and

Habitats Directives, the Nature Conservation Act also regulates the conservation of wetlands and nature monuments. On 1 October 2005 it will come into force.

The Flora and Fauna Act regulates protection of plant and animal species living in the wild. It includes those aspects of the Habitats Directive and Wild Birds Directive dealing with species protection, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Activities, which may be damaging to protected species, are essentially prohibited. It also recognizes that animals, which do not directly serve an obvious human need, are also of irreplaceable value. It includes a duty of care, applying to all animals and plants. Finally, the Act also allows landscape elements to be designated protected habitat.

Active species policy

Measures to protect those species whose survival is threatened are dealt with in the Multi-year program for implementation of species policy 2000-2004. The program includes incentive measures for active species protection. Policy is aimed at drafting and implementing of national species protection plans. The Minister has drawn up Red Lists for plant and animal species under threat, a list of species that have disappeared from a specific area, and species that have sharply decreased or are rare in an area. Among others a species protection plan for marsh-birds (2000-2004) was made.

National Ecological Network

In addition to the statutory protection of a number of nature areas, the Netherlands is also working on the National Ecological Network, a coherent network of nature areas. In these areas measures that may damage the natural values are not allowed, unless there are major reasons and compensation takes place. The aim is to realize 728,500 hectares of nature by 2018. In addition, the Network comprises more than 6 million hectares of water, including the Wadden Sea and the IJsselmeer. The National Ecological Network is intended to link up with nature areas in Germany and Belgium in the future, to strengthen the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN).

3.4 Management planning

Has your country developed a management planning process for protected sites? If yes, please outline the types of management plans and organizations responsible for development and implementation.

For almost all nature reserves there are management plans. This is done by different organizations: State Forestry Service, Vereniging Natuurmonumenten, provincial NGO's (the "provincial landscapes"), but also by other public or non-public organizations. These plans may differ in detail depending on the size of the area, the values in the area and the organization.

Besides that, a program for making plans for management of Natura2000 sites is set up, including basic inventories (2004-2005), setting conservation goals (2004-2005), guidelines for management plans (2004-2005) and setting up monitoring (2005-2006). The management plan of a Natura2000 site must be ready 3 years after designation of the site (i.e. 2008 or 2009).

3.5 Protected sites with management plans

How many protected sites have formal management plans (please append a list of sites and their management planning status):

a. Proposed?

Almost all nature sites in the Netherlands have management plans. The plans are different depending on the site(s) involved and the goal of the plan. According to the new Nature Protection Act (2005) in the coming years specific 'Natura2000 management plans' will be developed for the Natura2000 sites.

b. In preparation?

A few examples of Natura2000 sites for which at the moment "Natura2000-management plans" in preparation are:

- De Hors/Texel (Habitats and Birds Directive site, part of the Natura2000 site Duinen van Texel);
- Harskamp (Habitats and Birds Directive, part of the site Veluwe);
- Kop van Schouwen (Habitats Directive);
- Veluwerandmeren (Habitats and Birds Directive; different Natura2000 sites: Drontermeer, Veluwemeer, Wolderwijd and Nuldernauw);
- Uiterwaarden IJssel (Habitats and Birds Directive).

c. Being implemented?

See 3.5.a.

3.6 Wise use of wetland habitats

What measures does your country have in place to ensure the wise use of wetland habitats and to prevent habitat degradation e.g. pollution control and managing water resources? Please provide examples of best practice initiatives particularly involving cross-sectoral co-operation or public participation.

European Water Framework Directive (WFD)

On the 22 December 2000 the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) was adopted. The purpose of the Directive is to prevent deterioration and protect, enhance and restore the status of aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on the aquatic ecosystem. The Netherlands is implementing the Framework in the national policy and is currently defining types of water bodies. Goals must be set in river basin management plans in 2009.

NH3 policy

Pollution of aquatic systems by nitrates and ammonia can have implications for waterbirds. Council directive 2001/81/EG of 23 October 2001 concerning "National

Emission Ceilings" (NEC) for some air polluting substances requires a national maximum of NH₃ emission per hectare. Besides that, around nature areas with values that are very vulnerable for NH₃ there are buffer zones of 250 meters where extension of current emission of NH₃ is not allowed.

The wise use principle and the ecosystem approach are part of the Trilateral Cooperation for the Protection of the Wadden Sea, which is established between Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands.

The inter ministerial Dutch 'Partners for Water' program is meant to strengthen Dutch international activities in the field of water management and supply by combining knowledge, expertise and financial resources. Keywords of this program are Integrated Water Resources Management, sustainability and strengthening of the institutional and legal aspects of water-related issues and the making available of knowledge and experience for the international water sector. Following its success, the Program has recently been prolonged until 2009. Projects with a special focus on Water for Food and Ecosystems are available on the website www.waterfoodecosystems.nl

In 2001 a covenant was signed between the national government, provinces and water boards for common efforts to establish more resilience in regional water systems in the perspective of the effects of climate change. Wetlands will play an important role in achieving the covenants goals. In some cases more resilience will be established through the creation of new wetlands. An obligatory water assessment for plans affecting water systems, to strengthen sustainable use of water systems and wetlands, is part of the implementation of the covenant. The covenant goals will have to be achieved in 2015

The reaserch institute Alterra has recently finished a study about the effects of shellfish fishery on the ecosystems of the Dutch Wadden Sea and Ooster Scheldt (EVA II), for more information: www.alterra.nl

The website www.H2Overheid.nl is the portal for water managers at the Netherlands government. The aim of H2Overheid.nl is to bundle information over water and water management related subjects for governments at one portal to improve the quality and to improve information exchange. Moreover H2Overheid.nl functions as a communication medium on water related topics. Besides daily news coverage there are extensive dossiers on subjects and there are possibilities for the exchange of good practices and communication on actual research and policy developments.

3.7 Rehabilitation and restoration

Does your country have a policy for the identification, rehabilitation and restoration of wetlands important for species covered by the Agreement? Please provide examples of rehabilitation and restoration projects and initiatives undertaken.

Wetland restoration and rehabilitation programmes have a high priority in the Netherlands. For many examples of projects in the Netherlands see <http://www.natuurherstel.nl>.

For the ecological restoration of water systems that began with the Third Water Management Memorandum, the Fourth Water Management Memorandum states that it will be beneficial to make further investments in physical restoration measures. In these measures, safety and nature development follow from each other, with safety as a precondition.

In 2001 167 projects with the aim to restore fresh salt-water transitions were started. A number of good practices are available at www.zoetzout.nl and www.onderzoeksinformatie.nl (most information in Dutch only).

The *Delta Plan for the Major Rivers* brought forward the planned reinforcement of the dikes, but more will be needed to ensure flood protection along the major rivers. In its position paper "Space for the River (2000)", the Dutch government chose a new direction for the area around the major rivers of the Netherlands. The river water should be given space by, for example, lowering the flood plains; moving dikes further away from the river or finding places where water can be temporarily stored. Many projects developed under Space for the River combine flood protection and biodiversity objectives. An example can be found at: www.ecologisch-herstel-maas.nl. See also www.ruimtevoorderivier.nl and www.maaswerken.nl.

The Scheldt Estuary Development Project (ProSes), a joint initiative of Flemish and Dutch governments, will make a solid, broadly supported Development Plan to guarantee sustainable development in the Scheldt estuary. The Scheldt Estuary Development Plan 2010 focuses on three ambitions Safety against flooding, Accessibility of Flemish and Dutch Ports in the region and naturalness of the delta www.proses.nl. Gradual transitions between fresh and salt water, wet and dry and sand and silt have become rare in the Dutch delta. Many projects aiming at restoring these gradients have been initiated, varying from salt water marshes to restoring dune valleys with occasional intrusion of salt water.

Several projects have been realized. For example; the Directorate IJsselmeer Area has changed its sluice management in the Barrier Dam to improve fish migration from the Wadden Sea into the IJsselmeer. (www.rdiij.nl).

In the area of the brackish Haringvliet tidal wetlands used to occur at large scale. During last centuries these wetlands were turned into polders and used for agricultural purposes. To manage flood risks the Haringvliet sluices were build in 1970 as a part of the Delta works and the Zuiderdiep (a former part of the Haringvliet) became an important part of the fresh water supply for the polders. Again large areas of tidal wetlands disappeared in the Haringvliet because of the absence of water table fluctuations on regular daily basis. Recovery of tidal wetlands is an important topic in Dutch nature management and the possibilities of the recreation of tidal wetlands in the Zuiderdiep area are explored. Partial reopening of the Haringvliet sluices will create opportunities for brackish tidal wetlands (model Brakke getijdenkreek) and using the pumping engine at the North Sea site for the inlet of salt water in the Zuiderdiep will create opportunities for saline tidal wetlands (model Zoute slufte). In 2004 it was decided by the government that this inlet of seawater will be realized in in 2008.

The Survival Plan for Woodland and Nature (OBN) was drawn up in 1989. The OBN is the execution of effect-oriented measures for special nature types, i.e. for shallow raised bogs, fens and poorly buffered surface waters, which suffer from acidification, eutrophication and/or dehydration. The OBN network develops a well thought-out plan in which researchers, policy makers and site managers work together closely. In 2005, the

results of this knowledge network OBN were bundled in a booklet "15 years nature restoration in the Netherlands" (15 jaar natuurherstel in Nederland). This booklet will be translated in English.

Information about wetland restoration and rehabilitation can be found at the websites of the major knowledge institutes in the Netherlands: the Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment in Lelystad www.riza.nl, the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in Delft www.ihe.nl, the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC, Enschede) www.itc.nl and the International Agricultural Centre in Wageningen (www.iac.wageningen-ur.nl) and Wageningen University and Research Centre www.wur.nl. See also the Dutch website on nature restoration (information in Dutch only) www.natuurherstel.nl

4. Management of human activities

4.1 Hunting, main legislation features

Outline the main features of legislation or legal measures in your country to control hunting of the species covered by the Agreement (e.g. use of lead shot and poisoned baits, and to eliminate illegal taking).

In the Netherlands the Flora and Fauna Act regulate hunting. This act has entered into force in 2002. The act replaces, among others, the former Game Act and Birds Act. The Flora and Fauna Act is framework legislation and is therefore complemented and put into concrete terms by ministerial decrees and regulations and ordinances by the provincial councils.

Among waterbirds the only game species is *Anas platyrhynchos*. The hunting season is open from the 15th of August until the 1st of February. In the Special Protected Areas assigned on the basis of the EU Birds Directive and the Wetlands Convention hunting is prohibited. With regard to other waterbirds it is prohibited to pursue, capture, injure, kill or remove them from the wild, to disturb them during mating and breeding season and to damage or destroy their nesting or breeding sites.

4.2 Monitoring hunting

Does your country monitor hunting levels? If so, how is this information collated and reported?

The total number of all specimens of huntable species (including non water bird) shot is recorded by the Game Management Units Data Base on a yearly basis and published by the Royal Netherlands Shooting Association.

4.3 Managing hunting activities

Describe action undertaken by hunting clubs and organisations to manage hunting activity e.g. cooperative action, issuing of licences and proficiency testing of individual members.

For all hunting activities a hunting licence is required. To obtain a hunting licence one has to pass an exam, including shooting tests. The Royal Netherlands Shooting Association offers possibilities to practice shooting, including clay pigeon shooting, in order to prevent or minimize crippling of waterbirds hunted. The association also has developed ethical hunting rules ("weidelijkheidsregels").

Use of lead ammunition is prohibited. The Police and the General Inspection Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality carry out on-site controls.

4.4 Eco-tourism

What is the status of eco-tourism programmes or initiatives in your country? Please provide examples of projects with an indication of the significant outcomes.

There is no Dutch national label for eco-tourism. Most eco-tourism initiatives are referred to as sustainable tourism or agri-tourism. The tendency in the tourism sector has been one of decreasing government interference, which has led to a wide variety of initiatives and networks at various levels.

Two labels worth mentioning are: The Environmental Barometer (Milieubarometer, <http://www.recron.nl/milieubarometer>) is the Dutch eco-label for companies in the leisure sector. It is a reward for enterprises that have put efforts into their environmental management and it's a means to communicate the environmental friendly image of the enterprise to others (guests and the authorities).

Field Code Changed

PMZ (produktgerichte milieuzorgsysteem) is also a kind of 'eco-label'. Companies in the travel sector handling PMZ guarantee that their tourist products are evaluated on their environmental, nature and cultural aspects.

A example project with significant outcomes is 'the Foundation for a Sustainable Texel (<http://www.duurzaamtexel.nl>). This organization initiates and stimulates activities that enhance sustainable development on the island of Texel. The foundation is active with six themes: Renewable Energy, Sustainable Building, Sustainable Business, Transport, Information and Education and Multiple Land Use.

4.5 Social and economic benefits

What social and economic benefits accrue to the local communities from the conservation of important waterbird sites?

Recreation is a relatively new function of wetlands that has developed over the last decades. The beauty of wetland landscapes is an important reason for recreation. Many wetlands like the Waddensea and the Weerribben generate a substantial income for their regions.

4.6 Other human activities

Does your country carry out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of activities potentially affecting protected sites or areas important for species covered by the Agreement? If yes, briefly describe the main features of your EIA policy and procedures.

The Dutch EIA is part of the Environmental Law, which implements European directive 97/11. Activities requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment are listed in the law and involve activities, which are potentially hazardous to the environment. (e.g.

infrastructural projects, water operations and waste management). An EIA procedure is initiated with a startup document being published by the authorities. The document is produced by the initiator and contains the basic project data. After publishing there is a four-week period for the public to have a say. Within 13 weeks after the publication of the startup document, the responsible authorities indicating the alternatives and environmental effects that should be dealt with by the EIA produce guidelines. Once the EIA report is submitted, authorities have a six-week period for acceptance. After acceptance the EIA report is published for a for public consultation. A commission taking the results of the consultation process in consideration then drafts an advice. Responsible authorities then make a final decision on the project. An evaluation is always part of a EIA.

4.7 Planning policy, main features

Please describe the main features of your planning policy and provide examples of practical implementation (e.g. activities to minimizing disturbance of species populations or limit the impact of species populations on crops or fisheries). Please summarize any land-use conflicts especially emphasizing successful solutions to problems encountered in promoting the wise-use of waterbirds and their habitats.

Planning is regulated at a municipality level by zoning plans. In planning, authorities should take into account areas protected by Dutch law (Natuurbeschermingswet/Nature Protection Act). This law protects as of the first of October 2005, all Natura2000 areas in the Netherlands.

There are limited conflicts between land-use and waterbirds. The main conflicts are caused by geese and *Anas penelope* on agricultural grasslands during the winter season (October until May). Until now economic compensation is payed for the crop damage done by these birds and alleviation measures are in force such as scaring off accompanied by shooting of small numbers of *Anser anser*, *Anser albifrons* and *Anas penelope*. For the longer term the aim is to assign 80.000 hectares of grassland as special feeding areas for geese and *Anas penelope*. In such special areas geese and *Anas penelope* can feed undisturbed. Farmers within the special feeding areas will be compensated for crop damage and for growing specific feeding crops for wintering geese. Outside the special feeding areas scaring off accompanied by shooting of small numbers of *Anser anser*, *Anser albifrons* and *Anas Penelope* will be allowed. The procedure of assigning these 80.000 hectares of special feeding areas is almost completed. For the breeding population of *Anser anser* a similar approach is in preparation. In relation to *Phalacrocorax carbo* the policy is to prevent the establishment of new breeding colonies in order to keep the breeding population stable.

5. Research and monitoring

Status of research and monitoring programmes for species

5.1 Research priorities

How are priorities for research identified in your country? Please briefly describe your country's research programmes, including any bilateral or multilateral co-operative action, for wetland habitats and for species covered by the Agreement (e.g. studies into species population, ecology and migratory patterns). Please append a list of research activities initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years.

The Netherlands strongly supports the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) (www.unep-wcmc.org/aewa) under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention). The Netherlands considers the Ramsar Convention as the main instrument to achieve the goals of the AEWA on habitat conservation in the whole geographical region of the AEWA. More initiatives, via Wetlands International, are implemented in the Central Asian Region.

Through the International Policy Programme on biodiversity (2002-2006) (<http://netherlands.biodiv-chm.org>) the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) substantial support for wetland projects has been given to a number of countries such as the Baltic Republics, Ukraine, Russian Federation, countries especially in West Africa .

The accession of non CP's to join both the Convention and the AEWA has been strongly promoted throughout the wetland projects and programmes. The Netherlands has financially contributed to wetland inventory & policy work in Eastern Europe.

Many projects have been developed to support the AEWA agreement under the inter ministerial programs Partners for Water, PIN MATRA and the International Policy Programme on Biodiversity (BBI). Some of these projects have been in cooperation with other donors.

BBI = Policy Programme on Biodiversity 2002 -2006

The International Policy Programme of the Netherlands (<http://netherlands.biodiv-chm.org>) defines three priority programme components for the period 2002 - 2006.

- The strengthening of protected areas, buffer zones and other elements of ecological networks
- Increasing sustainable use of biodiversity, with special attention to agri-bussiness
- The reduction of negative impacts of Dutch actions on biodiversity in other countries.

More information about the specific Themes: Strengthening of Biodiversity: species and Ecosystems; Oceans, coastal areas and marine wetlands and Wetlands and fresh water ecosystems can be found at:

<http://netherlands.biodiv-chm.org> All projects are described at www.proforis.nl

In the BBI the promotion of the protection of international bird migration routes (flyways) as part of the global ecological network is mentioned. The East Atlantic bird migration route (from Siberia through Russia and Baltic states, to the Netherlands via south western Europe to Africa) has already been enshrined in the AEWA, while international cooperative agreements are giving it further substance. The Netherlands will promote the development of similar international cooperative agreements based on acquired experience in this bird migration route.

Partners voor Water (PvW)

The inter ministerial Dutch 'Partners for Water' (PvW) programme is meant to strengthen Dutch international activities in the field of water management and supply by combining knowledge, expertise and financial resources. Keywords of this programme are Integrated Water Resources Management, sustainability and strengthening of the institutional and legal aspects of water-related issues and the making available of knowledge and experience for the international water sector. Following its success, the Program has recently been prolonged until 2009. Projects with a special focus on Water for Food and Ecosystems are available on the website www.waterfoodecosystems.nl. Some projects are executed in important AEWA countries like Pechora in Russia and Inner Niger Delta in Mali. Information about the projects can be found at www.proforis.nl

DWK onderzoek = LNV budget gekoppeld (see appendix for more information)

Instrument	Project	Amount €	Period	Start	End
BBI-OS	Duurzame visserij West Afrika	595.800	3 year	2004	2006
	Global ecological Network	1.950.000	4 year	2003	2006
	Central Asian Flyway	50.000	3 year	2004	2006
	Int. Research & wise use 4 wetland eco-regions West Africa	2.450.439	4 year	2003	2006
PvW	Water for Food	5.157.616	4 year	2002	2005
	Water for Ecosystems	c.a. 4.000.000	4 year	2002	2005
DWK onderzoek	Programma 404: Internationale samenwerking	3.262.000,- (totale budget 50+ projecten)	4 year	2002	2005
	Programma 407: Water demand management	1.385.000,-	4 year	2002	2005
	Progr 426: IAC internationale kennisoverdracht en kennisuitwisseling	4.130.000,-	4 year	2002	2005

¹ Op dit moment wachten op goedkeuring

Programme International Nature Management Central and Eastern Europe (BBI-Matra, formerly PIN-Matra)

The programme International Nature Management Central and Eastern Europe is part of the policy document "Nature for people, people for nature" (2000). The Netherlands nature policy for Central and Eastern Europe has been laid down in the Nature Management Action Plan for Central and Eastern Europe 2001 - 2004.

The programme International Nature Management Central and Eastern Europe (PIN-Matra) has recently been replaced by the "International Policy Programme Biodiversity" (BBI), the Action Plan is part of this Programme. Therefore PIN-Matra has now become BBI-Matra.

The Action plan describes the challenges facing nature conservation in Central and Eastern Europe and the way the Netherlands government is planning to assist. It clarifies the priorities the Netherlands wants to set regarding themes, countries and types of activities, directing the cooperation activities of the concerned ministries with Central and Eastern Europe in the area of nature and biological diversity. At the same time, the Action Plan constitutes the policy framework for the granting of financial support to projects of the PIN-Matra (BBI-Matra) programme.

The Programme is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.

The implementation of PIN/BBI Matra is based on:

- Agreements and assignments like the AEWA. This concerns agreements about regional activities lasting several years with a number of important international organisations, and projects resulting from agreements made by the Netherlands in international fora;
- Subsidy arrangement nature projects Central and Eastern Europe. This window is every year officially opened for some time.

The new Action Plan BBI-Matra 2005 - 2008 aims to halt the loss of biodiversity in the pan-European region as per 2010. It supports the establishment of national and international (Pan - European) ecological networks as well as the strengthening of civil society in biodiversity conservation. The new action plan 2005 - 2008 focusses on the pre-accession countries and EU neighbouring States.

All PIN MATRA and BBI MATRA activities can be found at: www.proforis.nl

More information about MOU's and KNIP projects

MoUs (Memorandums of Understanding with Matra partner countries). These are partnership agreements between the Netherlands Ministry of LNV and a partner country (Poland, Hungary, Russian Federation and Ukraine) in the fields of nature and the conservation of biological diversity.

KNIP- projects (Small grants for Nature Initiatives Programme). These projects fall directly under the management of the decentralised LNV representatives worldwide (see f.i. . www.nlembassy.pl)

5.2 Monitoring

What monitoring activities does your country undertake, including any bilateral or

multilateral cooperative action, of wetland areas and species covered by the Agreement (e.g. national monitoring schemes, International Waterfowl Census)? Please append a list of monitoring activities or programmes initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years

The headquarter of Wetland International is based in Wageningen in the Netherlands. The Dutch government finances the database manager of the Migratory Water Bird Database.

The `Nature Counter` (Natuurloket) www.natuurloket.nl offers a free and direct insight into the occurrence of protected species. Interactive maps at the website show the occurrence of protected species in each square kilometre. You can also obtain information about the relevant laws concerning these animal and plant species, such as the "Flora- en Faunawet" (Act on flora and fauna) and the EU Bird and Habitat Directive. The `Nature Counter` is an independent information broker improving the accessibility of data on protected species. These data are provided by specialized organizations, united in VOFF (Society for Research on Flora and Fauna).

The Ministry is working on the implementation of the EU Birds and Habitat Directive. In this framework the Ministry is developing a system for the assessment of the changes in the sustainable conservation status of the sites. A major project "*Legal Research Tasks*" (WOT Wettelijke Onderzoeks Taken) is in progress on the moment (started in 2004).

Results of the Dutch monitoring network for the Habitat Directive and Birds Directive can be found at: www.cbs.nl (keyword NEM) and www.siliconmeadow.nl/~nemweb.

6. Education and information

Training and development programmes

6.1 Status of programmes

Describe the status of training and development programmes which support waterbird conservation and implement the AEWA Action Plan.

There are many programmes and trainings from both government as well as from volunteers, none of them however is explicitly linked to the AEWA Action Plan, but many can be seen as such.

6.2 Co-operative action

What bilateral or multilateral co-operative action is your country undertaking to develop training programmes and share examples of good practice?

The Netherlands has funded the identification of important waterbird sites (IBA) through their International Policy Programme on biodiversity (2002-2006). This was done in collaboration with two other Waddensea states, Germany and Denmark.

Vogelbescherming Nederland, Dutch Partner of BirdLife International, supports several international initiatives. Vogelbescherming has actively cooperated and financially co-supported the Ukrainian Birdlife partner UTOP.

Vogelbescherming Nederland has supported Argentina with the production of material to raise public awareness concerning the damage done to seabirds (esp. albatrosses) by long-line fishing.

6.3 Raising public awareness

Describe activities to raise public awareness of the objectives of the AEWA Action Plan. Please outline any particular successes generating public interest in, and securing support for, waterbird and wetland conservation (e.g. campaigns, information notes or other initiatives)?

Specific campaigns were organised during the appointment of new areas for the Bird Directive. There are however no specific awareness campaigns linked to the AEWA Action Plan.

For members of the public who have queries concerning the birds and habitats Directives, the first port of call is the *Infotiek* at the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries. The *Infotiek* is housed in the Ministry's main building.

The *Infotiek*, deals primarily with questions, comments and complaints from the public, businesses, other authorities, organisations, students and schoolchildren. Technical questions may be fed back to the policy directorate concerned. The

Infotiek also guides people with complaints and questions on a specific subject to the directorates concerned.

7. Final comments

7.1 General comments

General comments on the implementation of the AEWA Action Plan

- a. The Secretariat should consider harmonizing the format of the Report of the Parties with other reporting obligations as for example for RAMSAR, and the Birds Directive. The AEWA and its “outcome” have a “low public profile”. More intense communication and raising public awareness is recommended. More staff or more frequent meetings are not necessary.
- b. It could be suggested to find more synergy with other international conventions dedicated to nature conservation, by combining technical bodies, and/or by combining supporting functions as the bureaus of the international conventions.
- c. The NGO-partners fulfill a very important role. Their (institutional) independence, the quality of their input in debates, their strong communication with the public, and their immense networks of volunteers are seen as the most important and critical success-factors. Also their input is seen as a very cost-effective way to realize the aims of the AEWA action plan. It is suggested to the state parties to recognize and value this importance and to support NGO's with full respect for their independency.

7.2 Observations on AEWA bodies

Observations concerning the functions and services of the various AEWA bodies

a. The Agreement Secretariat

The Secretariat should consider harmonizing the format of the Report of the Parties with other report as for example for RAMSAR, and the Birds Directive. The AEWA and its “outcome” have a “low public profile”. More intense communication and raising public awareness is recommended. More staff or more frequent meetings are not necessary.

b. International organizations

It could be suggested to find more synergy with other international conventions dedicated to nature conservation, by combining technical bodies, and/or by combining supporting functions as the bureaus of the international conventions

c. AEWA NGO partners

The NGO-partners fulfill a very important role. Their (institutional) independence, the quality of their input in debates, their strong communication with the public, and their immense networks of volunteers are seen as the most important and critical success-

factors. Also their input are seen as a very cost-effective way to realize the aims of the AEWA action plan. It is suggested to the state parties to recognize and value this importance and to support NGO's with full respect for their independency.

7.3 Development of the Action Plan

How might the Action Plan be further developed as a practical aid for national and international conservation of migratory waterbirds?

The goals and principles of the AEWA have a vital role to play in meeting the 2010 biodiversity targets. Latest scientific evidence confirms that many common migratory bird populations continue to decline, which reflects wider degradation of Europe's natural resources.

It is necessary to examine important challenges for the future.

In due time a review of annex 3 of the action plan could become necessary, covering emerging items to be debated as:

- climatic change and possible adaptation strategies;
- how best to observe and maintain the protection regimes;
- a better integration of the requirements of the AEWA into all relevant policy areas, especially the EU;
- strengthening research efforts, communication & awareness and adequate financing as these are necessary for the implementation of the necessary actions.
- developing a monitoring-strategy, applying to the needs of realizing the 2010-target, harmonized with the international development of biodiversity-indicators;
- render human activities more sustainable and compatible with migratory bird conservation requirements and the development of integrated approaches;
- communicating bird conservation with society;
- the establishment of systems of protected areas, connectivity, and ecological network-approaches, taking into account the resilience of systems of protected areas;
- synergy between protective instruments especially Ramsar, Birds Directive and AEWA;
- international cooperation, especially twinning, and capacity building;
- the protection of migratory birds in the wider landscape, especially outside protected areas.

8. Progress

Progress to implement Resolutions and Recommendations of the Meeting of the Parties

General: the Dutch government was one of the principal funders for the 2004 "Waterbirds around the world" conference in Edinburgh. The proceedings are in preparation. In the second half of 2004 the Bergen op Zoom conference was organised to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Birds Directive. The proceedings of this last conference are available in print. The conclusions of this meeting were taken to the EU-environmental council.

- Res. 2.1 AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES TO THE AGREEMENT
Review the status of *Anas acuta* and *Somateria mollissima*, other actions : see paragraphs 2, 5 and 7.
- Res. 2.2 PHASING OUT LEAD SHOT FOR HUNTING IN WETLANDS
Lead shot is, in close cooperation and fully approved by the hunting community, totally prohibited in the Netherlands, see paragraph 1.1. and 4.1.
- Res. 2.3 CONSERVATION GUIDELINES
No comments, see other paragraphs, esp. paragraph 7.
- Res. 2.4 INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES FOR 2003 - 2007
The Netherlands supported several NGO's and State parties to implement some of the identified actions, especially in West-Africa and Central Asia. The Netherlands funded several research projects, censuses, ringing projects, proceedings, distribution atlases and capacity-building projects.
- Res. 2.5 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS: TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
No comments.
- Res. 2.6 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS: STANDING COMMITTEE
No comments.
- Res. 2.7 FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
No comments.
- Res. 2.8 GUIDELINES FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BUDGET OF THE AGREEMENT IN KIND IN LIEU OF CASH
No comments.
- Res. 2.9 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SMALL CONSERVATION GRANTS FUND FOR THE AGREEMENT
No comments.
- Res. 2.10 DATE, VENUE AND FUNDING OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES
No comments.
- Res. 2.11 HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT FOR AND JURIDICAL PERSONALITY OF THE AGREEMENT SECRETARIAT
Sincere gratitude to the Federal Republic of Germany for financial and other support to the Agreement Secretariat.
- Res. 2.12 TRIBUTE TO THE ORGANIZERS
No comments.
- Res. 2.13 INTERNATIONAL ACTION PLANS ON THE SOCIABLE PLOVER, THE BLACKWINGED PRATINCOLE AND THE GREAT SNIPE
See paragraph 2.
- Recommendation 2.1 INTERNATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON THE DARK-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE (Rotgans)
See paragraphs 2 to 6.

References

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- Roomen M. van, A. Boele, M. van der Weide, E. Winden, ea, 2000. Belangrijke vogelgebieden in Nederland 1993-97.
- SOVON, 2001. Actueel overzicht van Europese vogelwaarden in aangewezen en aan te wijzen speciale, beschermingszones en andere belangrijke gebieden. SOVON Informatierapport 2000/01 SOVON, Beek-Ubbergen.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Status of Single Species Action Plans

See chapter 2.3

The following Species Actions Plans, related to species on Annex I of AEWA, are in force:

T. den Boer (2000): Beschermingsplan moerasvogels 2000-2004 (Ministerie van LNV, Wageningen).

In this Species Action Plan the category “moerasvogels” encompasses the following species: kwak, purperreiger, baardman, woudaapje, roerdomp, zwarte stern, lepelaar, blauwe kiekendief, snor, grote karekiet, krooneend, blauwborst and Porseleinhoen.

The following “moerasvogels” are on Annex I of AEWA: kwak (*Nycticorax nycticorax* ssp. *nycticorax*), purperreiger (*Ardea purpurea* ssp. *purpurea*), woudaapje (*Ixobrychus minutus* ssp. *minutus*), roerdomp (*Botaurus stellaris* ssp. *stellaris*), zwarte stern (*Chlidonias niger* ssp. *niger*), lepelaar (*Platalea leucorodia* ssp. *leucorodia*), krooneend (*Netta rufina*), blauwborst (*Luscinia svecica* ssp. *cyaneacula*), porseleinhoen (*Porzana porzana*).

G.J. Gerritsen, K. Koffijberg & P. Voskamp (2004): Beschermingsplan kwartelkoning (*Crex crex*) (Ministerie van LNV, Ede).

Appendix 2: Special Protection Areas designated under the Birds Directive and Wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention

Status *	SPA #	Ram #	Special Protection Area (SPA)	SPA Year	SPA Area (ha)
Ramsar	1	7	Alde Feanen	1994	2.123
Waterbirds	53		Arkemheen	2000	1.445
Ramsar	2	12	Bargerveen	1992	2.089
Ramsar	3	33	Biesbosch	1996	8.529
Waterbirds	61		Boezems Kinderdijk	2000	340
Non-Wet	75		Brabantse Wal	2000	4.929
Ramsar	62	28	Broekvelden/Vettenbroek	2000	710
Ramsar	54	15	De Wieden	2000	9.326
Waterbirds	63		De Wilck	2000	116
Ramsar	4	8	Deelen	1992	514
Ramsar	5-1	41	Deurnese Peel	1992	1.475
Waterbirds	64		Donkse Laagten	2000	203
Non-Wet	31		Drents-Friese Woud	2000	6.390
Ramsar	42	21	Drontermeer	2000	571
Ramsar	39E	2	Duinen Ameland	2000	2.055
Ramsar	39F	2	Duinen Schiermonnikoog	2000	1.042
Ramsar	39D	2	Duinen Terschelling	2000	3.221
Ramsar	39C	2	Duinen Texel	2000	3.102
Ramsar	39B	2	Duinen Vlieland	2000	1.398
Ramsar	7		Dwingelderveld	1996	3.766
Ramsar	8		Eemmeer	1994	1.069
Waterbirds	43		Eilandspolder	2000	1.411
Ramsar	9	13	Engbertsdijksvenen	1989	893
Ramsar	32	5	Fluessen/Vogelhoek/Morra	2000	2.112
Waterbirds	10		Fochteloerveen	1998	2.599
Waterbirds	45-2		Friese IJsselmeerkust	1998	5.229
Waterbirds	55		Gelderse Poort	2000	6.070
Waterbirds	11		Gooimeer	1994	516
Ramsar	65	35	Grevelingen	2000	13.831
Ramsar	12	42	Groote Peel	1986	1.308
Ramsar	33		Groote Wielen	2000	607
Ramsar	66	31	Haringvliet	2000	10.796
Ramsar	67	32	Hollands Diep	2000	3.977
Ramsar	44	18	IJmeer	2000	7.488
Waterbirds	56		IJssel	2000	9.094
Ramsar	45-1	16	IJsselmeer	2000	108.122
Waterbirds	46		IJperveld, Varkensland en Twiske	2000	2.202
Non-Wet	14		Kampina	1986	1.173
Ramsar	47	20	Ketelmeer en Vossemeer	2000	3.842
Ramsar	16	34	Krammer-Volkerak	1995	6.078
Waterbirds	17		Kwade Hoek	1994	897
Ramsar	34	3	Lauwersmeer	2000	5.574
Ramsar	35	10	Leekstermeergebied	2000	1.549
Non-Wet	77		Leenderbos en Grote Heide	2000	2.524
Waterbirds	18		Lepelaarplassen	1994	358

Status	SPA #	Ram #	Special Protection Area (SPA)	SPA Year	SPA Area (ha)
Non-Wet	13		Maasduinen	2000	4.308
Waterbirds	5-2	41	Mariapeel	1986	1.068
Ramsar	48	17	Markermeer	2000	60.999
Waterbirds	19	36	Markiezaatsmeer	1989	1.800
Non-Wet	20		Meinweggebied	1994	1.803
Ramsar	21	26	Naardermeer	1986	635
Waterbirds	57		Neder-Rijn	2000	3.258
Waterbirds	22		Nieuwkoopse Plassen	1997	2.077
Ramsar	39A	2	Noordzeekustzone	2000	123.646
Ramsar	49	27	Oostelijke Vechtplassen	2000	6.683
Waterbirds	23	36	Oosterschelde	1989	35.497
Ramsar	24	24	Oostvaardersplassen	1989	5.505
Ramsar	36	4	Oudegaasterbrekken e.o.	2000	773
Waterbirds	68		Oudeland van Strijen	2000	1.578
Ramsar		9	Rottige Meenthe	2000	
Non-Wet	58		Sallandse Heuvelrug	2000	2.228
Ramsar	37	6	Sneekermeer/Goengarijster Poelen en Terkaplesterpoelen	2000	2.311
Waterbirds	38		Van Oordt's Mersken e.o.	2000	864
Ramsar	69	38	Veerse Meer	2000	2.577
Non-Wet	59		Veluwe	2000	93.052
Ramsar	50	22	Veluwemeer	2000	3.056
Waterbirds	25	40	Verdronken Land van Saeftinge	1995	3.578
Ramsar	70	29	Voordelta	2000	92.369
Ramsar	71	30	Voornes Duin	2000	159
Waterbirds	15		Waal (incl. Kil van Hurwenen)	2000	5.499
Ramsar	26	1	Waddenzee	2000	272.040
Ramsar	27	14	Weerribben	1986	3.316
Non-Wet	77		Weerter- en Budelerbergen	2000	2.255
Ramsar	72	39	Westerschelde	2000	15.720
Waterbirds	40		Witte en Zwarte Brekken en Oudhof	2000	434
Ramsar	51	23	Wolderwijd en Nuldernauw	2000	2.482
Waterbirds	52		Wormer en Jisperveld	2000	1.753
Waterbirds	73		Yerseke en Kapelse Moer	2000	484
Waterbirds			Polder Zeevang	2005	1.862
Ramsar	74	37	Zoommeer	2000	1.053
Waterbirds	28		Zouweboezem	1994	132
Ramsar	41	11	Zuidlaardermeergebied	2000	2.095
Ramsar	6	25	Zwanenwater	1988	595
Ramsar	29	19	Zwarte Meer	1995	2.200
Waterbirds	60		Zwarte Water en Overijsselse Vecht	2000	1.424
Waterbirds	30		Zwin	1996	141
TOTAAL					1.015.973

(*) Ramsar = site designated under the Ramsar (Wetland) Convention;
Waterbirds = other Special Protection Areas important for waterbirds;
Non-Wet = Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated for terrestrial bird species.

Natura 2000-gebieden (Vogelrichtlijn)

schaal 1 : 1 000 000



Wetlands aangewezen onder de Wetlands-Conventie

schaal 1 : 1 000 000

- 1 Waddenzee
- 1a Boschplaat
- 1b Griend
- 2 Waddeneilanden en Noordzeekustzone
- 3 Lauwersmeer
- 4 Oudegasterbrekken e.o.
- 5 Fluessen, Vogelhoek en Morra
- 6 Sneekermeer, Goengarijsterpoelen, Terkaplesterpoelen en Akmarlip
- 7 Alde Feanen
- 8 De Deelen
- 9 Rottige Meentbe
- 10 Leekstermeergebied
- 11 Zuidlaardermeergebied
- 12 Bargerveen
- 13 Engbertsdijkvenen
- 14 Weerribben
- 15 Wleden
- 16 IJsselmeer
- 17 Markermeer
- 18 IJmeer
- 19 Zwarte Meer
- 20 Katelmeer en Vossemeer
- 21 Drontermeer
- 22 Veluwemeer
- 23 Voldenvijld en Nuldemaauw
- 24 Oostvaardersplassen
- 25 Zwanewater
- 26 Naardermeer
- 27 Oostelijke Vichtplassen
- 28 Broekvelden/Vettenbroek
- 29 Voordelta
- 30 Voornes Duin
- 31 Haringvliet
- 32 Hollands Diep
- 33 Biesbosch Zuidwaard
- 34 Krammer-Volkerak
- 35 Grevelingen
- 36 Oosterschelde en Markiezaat
- 37 Zoommeer
- 38 Veerse Meer
- 39 Westerschelde
- 40 Verdronken Land van Saeftinghe
- 41 Deurnese Peel
- 42 Grote Peel

 aangewezen Wetland

23 maart 2005

Appendix 4: List of research and monitoring programs and projects

Title: Simulation of effects of recreation on summer birds on a national scale

Period: 01/2004 - 12/2004

Related organizations

Financier: Department of Knowledge

Secretariat: Alterra, Green World Research (WUR)

Title: Measurement network summer birds Wadden Sea

Period: 01/2004 - 12/2006

Related organizations

Financier: Department of Knowledge

Secretariat: Alterra, Green World Research (WUR)

Title: The response of meadow birds to an increasingly fragmented landscape in the Netherlands

Period: 12/2000 - 12/2005

Related organizations

Financier: University Utrecht (UU)

Secretariat: Centre for Geo-ecological Research (UvA)

Title: Research effects large wind turbines on birds

Period: 01/2002 - unknown

Related organizations

Secretariat: Energy research Centre of the Netherlands - ECN

Title: Bird collisions and lightning detection

Period: 01/2004 - unknown

Related organizations

Secretariat: Energy research Centre of the Netherlands - ECN

Title: Seasonal variation in the immunity system and energy consumption in birds

Period: 07/2004 - unknown

Related organizations

Financier: Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research

Secretariat: Animal Ecology (RuG)

Title: Nature friendly banks

Period: 10/1996 - 12/2005

Related organizations

Financier: Hoogheemraadschap Amstel, Gooi en Vecht / Beleid

Secretariat: Dienst Waterbeheer en Riolerings - DWR

Title: Colonial waterbirds and their habitat use in the Danube Delta

Period: 2002

Financier: RIZA

Appendix 5 and 6

List of national institutions involved in migratory waterbird conservation and their Web addresses

- Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality www.minlnv.nl
- RIZA: Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment www.riza.nl
- Ringing stations in the Netherlands www.vogeltrekstation.nl
- SOVON Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology www.sovon.nl
- Alterra, research institute for our green living environment www.alterra.nl
- Ecological Monitoring Network (NEM) www.siliconmeadow.nl/~nemweb
- Vogelbescherming Nederland Dutch Partner of BirdLife International www.vogelbescherming.nl
- VOFF (flora and fauna research) www.voff.nl
- www.dutchbirding.nl