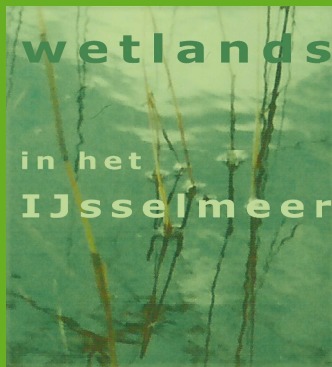




IMSA AMSTERDAM

“Wetlands in the IJsselmeer region” IMSA initiative, 1996 - today

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Subsidies and sponsoring for Stichting Wetlands in het IJsselmeer: Leven met Water, Delft Cluster, Rabo Vastgoed, ING Vastgoed Ontwikkeling, Van Oord, Boskalis, De Alliantie Ontwikkeling, DHV, Sunergy/Innoplan.

History

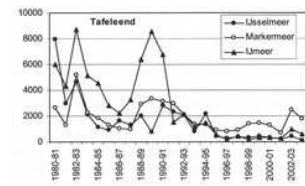
In the IJsselmeer region, nature values decline because of climate change, sludge excess in the lake and human disturbance. Pressure on spatial planning increases. Numbers of protected bird species decrease. The landscape is degrading. There are several initiatives for improvement, but no integral solutions yet.

1996: first research by IMSA Amsterdam. Hypothesis: construction of ‘wetlands’ (swamps, vegetated lake shores, islands etc.) can boost nature values and possibly offer space for recreation/new villages.

2005 - present: Consortium Stichting Wetlands in het IJsselmeer: IMSA Amsterdam, GeoDelft, WL | Delft Hydraulics and ECORYS. 2005 - 2007: public/private funded research project, nine sponsors.

Analysis

- Severe ecological problems: mussels and fish numbers decline, causing bird species to disappear. High turbidity (sludge) means no chance for water plants.
- Large pressure on spatial planning processes causes excessive pressure on nature. “Nature legislation closes down the area”.
- Administrative/political deadlock due to fragmentation of tasks & responsibilities.
- Lakes in IJsselmeer region protected under EU Birds Directive, i.e. restrictions on human activities such as new constructions. However, legislation obliges to take action when bird numbers fall. New approach necessary.



The Common Pochard is one of the waterbird species of which numbers are declining in the IJsselmeer region.

Bron: RIZA-rapport “Ecologie en Ruimte”, Van Eerden et al. (2005)

Approach

- The original 1996 vision has been further developed, based on research into geo-ecological, political, legislative and economic aspects.
- Stakeholder involvement; expert workshops.
- Four-phase, 2.5-year project ending with propositions/plans.

Results

- Phase 1 completed.
 - Scientific basis of problems, and need for action are clear; sketches are made of a future sustainable perspective.
 - Stakeholders (NGOs, policymakers, scientists etc.) recognise Stichting Wetlands as player.
- Startup of stakeholder process in Phase 2.