

tussen Duin & Dijk



Connection and defragmentation

Nature in Noord-Holland. Volume 17 3 ● 2018



Provincial Organisations Flora & Fauna

The platform Provincial Organisations Flora & Fauna (POFF) is a joint venture of voluntary organisations occupied with nature research in the province of Noord-Holland. The POFF is facilitated by the Stichting Landschap Noord-Holland. Also voluntary organisations that mainly focus on nature conservation are supported by Landschap Noord-Holland. The aim of the POFF is to stimulate nature research in Noord-Holland and promote cooperation between the different organisations. To achieve this goal, the POFF publishes the magazine *Tussen Duin & Dijk*, and holds the Noord-Hollandse Day of Nature once a year. New initiatives from the affiliated clubs are welcome.

The organisations below are affiliated to the POFF, and new voluntary organisations may report to the coordinator.

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Tussen Duin & Dijk is an independent magazine dedicated to studying and protecting nature and the landscape in Noord-Holland. It is created by volunteers with a particular passion for nature. Regardless of whether your passion is nature as a whole, or specific birds, butterflies, fish or bats, plants mosses or foxes. The magazine is published four times a year by the Provincial Organisations for Flora & Fauna (POFF). The publication of this magazine is facilitated by Landschap Noord-Holland.

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Graphic design: Art&Design Bredewold & Buczynski, Haringhuizen.

Print: Springeruit Drukwerk, Schoorl.

Circulation: 2000.

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ISSN: 1570-7261

'This special edition 'Connection and defragmentation' is commissioned by the Provincie Noord-Holland and published in the context of the Infra Eco Network (IENE) Congress. It is produced with an extra financial contribution by Provincie Noord-Holland.'

● *Wildlifepassage Naardermeer. Photo: Provincie Noord-Holland. Background: Ecoduct Zandpoort. Photo: Ruud Maaskant.*

Preface

On 15 September 2017, I had the honour of opening the fantastic Natuurbrug Zeepoort in Bloemendaal. This ecoduct eliminates the barrier effect of the Bloemendaalse Zeeweg and enables exchange between the dunes' different populations again. The ecoduct has not just been created for the benefit of a few species, but is meant to support all species occurring in the dunes.

In a province like Noord-Holland, with its great natural diversity, yet also a lot of infrastructure, it is necessary to connect natural areas to ensure that animals and plants have sufficiently large habitats.

Infra Eco Network Europe (IENE) with its congresses on this subject every two years, has been stimulating knowledge exchange in the field, to which we are more than happy to contribute. It is for this reason that this special edition of *tussen Duin & Dijk* is dedicated to the most recent research in Noord-Holland. You will be able to read about the measures taken in Noord-Holland to create better connections between our natural sites. And once projects like these have been completed, the monitoring starts. Are the measures proving adequate, or is there still room for improvement?

When connecting small and scattered natural sites, it is important to make use of the networks that are already present in our rural areas. These include the road verges, the dikes and bodies of water. These corridors can play a very important role as connecting routes for plants and animals, and promote biodiversity this way.

The ecoducts in the dunes are being studied for their use, and the results are looking promising. Foxes and many ground beetle species, for instance, are already actively using the ecoducts. The next step is investigating whether actual genetic exchange is taking place. This, too, is the subject of current study.

In addition to connections by land, the researchers looked into connections by water. For example, a wildlife passage around the Naardermeer has already been used by an otter. And what is great is that anyone can contribute by identifying the animals that are making use of these wildlife passages. They can do so on wildspotter.nl, where footage from wildlife cameras across Noord-Holland is being analysed.

All in all, our province is seeing a lot of activity when it comes to connecting our natural areas. I hope you will enjoy reading this special issue.

Adnan Tekin
Provincial Executive for the environment,
employment and Schiphol



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