



Flanders
State of the Art

Species Protection Plan Meadowbirds

(Flanders)

cooperation with stakeholders and financing

(INBO – Geert Spanoghe)

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Species Protection Plan Meadowbirds

focus on Black-tailed Godwit and Eurasian Curlew

Black-tailed Godwit: IUCN: 'Near Threatened' under criteria A2bcde → 'Vulnerable' in Flanders
Eurasian Curlew: IUCN: 'Near Threatened' under criteria A2bcd+3bcd+4bcd → 'Endangered' in Flanders

- Official since 21/12/2021, Flemish contribution to International Conservation Plans
- Europe: EU International Multi-Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Breeding Waders in Wet Grassland Habitats in Europe (2018-2028) → both species are not included in Annex 1 of the Bird Directive
- Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)
International Single Species Action Plans:
Black-tailed Godwit (2008)
Eurasian Curlew (2015)

Species Protection Plan Meadow birds

focus on Black-tailed Godwit and Eurasian Curlew

- ▶ Conservation goal (breeding pairs) of 1090 pairs of Black-tailed Godwit and 365 Eurasian Curlews in Flanders
- ▶ allocated to 38 areas/geographical clusters
(important overlap with Natura 2000)
- ▶ with goals/aims for both or one of the 2 species
- ▶ Prioritized (1-3) in function of contribution (in numbers) to regional and national population & current processes

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- Overall
 - ▶ Description of different actions needed to reach conservation goals (securing breeding habitat, vegetation management, hydrology, ...)
 - ▶ Description of instrumentarium for implementation of these actions (suggestions for new ones)
 - ▶ Monitoring, knowledge building, communication & education, coördination, financial overview

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- For each cluster
 - ▶ Description and overview ongoing processes (e.g. Natura 2000)
 - ▶ Past and present occurrence of meadow birds, potential
 - ▶ Assessment of critical parameters for healthy population (landscape, hydrology, human disturbance, predation, ...)
 - ▶ Suggestion for ‘instrumentarium’ and ‘local actors’

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- Cooperation with Stakeholders

Given that ...

- ▶ Almost all populations depend on agricultural activities (from meadow bird reserves to private land)
- ▶ No aim nor capacity to purchase all necessary land needed (often only the most biodiverse cores are targeted)
- ▶ Important part without or with only partially adapted management (from parcel to landscape)

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- Cooperation with Stakeholders

It is important that ...

- ▶ many/all stakeholders should be targeted
(water management, farmers, land owners, local government, ...)
- ▶ Creation of ‘Meadowbird Communities’
 - involves all professionals but also volunteers on all topics
(management, implementation of instrumentarium, monitoring ...)
 - coördinated at local or regional level (NGO’s, Nature Bodies, RL’s, ...)
 - facilitates coöperation, shares knowledge, finds solutions in conflicts, broadens communication and education, financial management ...
 - supported by national coördinator(s) SPP

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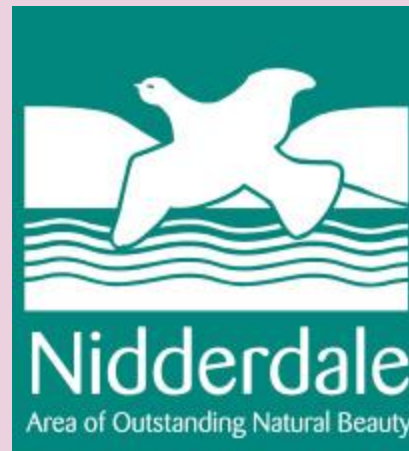
focus on Black-tailed Godwit and Eurasian Curlew

- Cooperation with Stakeholders – Meadowbird Communities

Would this work in Flanders ? Who should take the lead ?
Or a triumvirate of officers: administrative-practical-liaison ?



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Vereniging voor Agrarisch Natuurbeheer

"Tusken Boarn en Swette"

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- Financing
 - ▶ Life Projects (Uitkerke, Nardus-Limoso, Life delta ...)
 - ▶ PSN, NIP-LIP, NBP, Blue Deal-projects, ...
 - ▶ Measures from the CAP (GLB): on a voluntary basis
 - spread out, often not connected with a core area, 5 years, ...
 - often more significant conservation measures are necessary
 - ▶ SPP is a framework with limited (direct) financing
(nest protection, monitoring & research, communication, coördination)

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- Financing
 - distance tot target is very challenging
 - some big successes in the oldest reserves (Uitkerke, IJzervallei)
 - but also 'priority 1'-areas with huge potential but marginal populations (Wezelse heide, Siberië-Peer)
 - considering all other difficulties can be overcome ...
 - finances still will be a bottleneck

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- Financing

Can we find more/other/new resources ?

Or other stakeholders ?

→ Life+ -project along (a part of) the East-Atlantic Flyway ?

e.g. Life Meadow Bird (Friesland & Lower Saxony), extended with staging and
wintering areas

→ Would a Trust/Stichting/Estate be a possibility in Flanders ?

e.g. Stichting Weidevogels with public funding and coöperation of big
companies in projects (CO₂, climate mitigation, ...)