

Quality of nature and
management of fens
De Wieden <-> Biebrza NP

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Nature values:

- **Natural abiotic features, zonation:** X
- **Natural biotic processes:** peat forming, terrestrialisation, waterdynamics
- **EU-Habitats:** e.g. **sedge-moss fens**, stratiotetum, magnopotamion, molinion, transition-mires, *peat-forests, peat forming bogs*
- **EU-species:** Liparis-orchid, big water beetles, dragonflies, fishes, large copper, *otter, beaver, elk, wolf,.*
- **Birds:** **Bittern, corncrake**, warblers, ducks, waders, birds of prey

De Wieden as a fen area

- Originally part of a floodplain of parallel rivers consisting of peatbogs and reed/sedges
- Peat dug out -> shallow lakes, petgaten
- Secondary peat forming process
- Nature reserves: remnants in an agricultural setting
- High biodiversity values, semi-natural management

Aims long term management plan

- Naturalness? No: impossible
- Let succession have its way? No: values for nature, agriculture, tourism and visitors lost
- So aims are:
- Restore succession mosaic from water, sedge-moss fens, reedbeds, alderwoods
- Mimick extensive agriculture (semi-natural use)

Internal Nature management

- Removal shrubs from floating fens over ice or with crane, start mowing, flying carpet
- Restore former sedge-moss fens by removal of sphagnum toplayer
- Removal decomposed top soil from reedbeds
- Creating ditches
- Digging new 'petgaten'

External Nature management

- Help reedcutters survive: Agrotourism (mini campsites, excursion-farms), weerribben-dairy products, ecotourism
- Support actions regional gouvernement
- Lobby for nature-money in touristtax
- Lobby: Hay etc. as fuel-source
- Educate Waterboard: act according hydro-ecological needs
- Lobby for money at Ministry of Agric and Nat.

Message to Biebrza NP

Concentrate on the needs for your largest values:

- Undisturbed hydrology, rivers, soil and natural zonation
- Sedge-moss fens in seepage areas
- Wetland birds in inundated areas
- Large scale

Questions for Biebrza NP.

- What are (possible) dangers in catchment area outside BNP? Quantity / quality of water, nature values? How to prevent?
- What is the impact on 1 m lowered floodlevel Narew on Biebrza: hydrology, nature quality?
- Effect forest area at evapotranspiration / river hydrology? (more, same, less forest)
- Effect moorshing process in BNP on values?
- Main values and their needs (soil, hydrology)