

Policy Plan: Nature, Landscape, Infrastructure, and Buildings 2015 - 2020 'Innovation and Research'

Outline of policy, objectives, and enabling conditions

Drawn up on 19 March 2015



stichting het nationale park
de Hoge veluwe

Introduction

The 'Policy plan: Nature, Landscape, Infrastructure, and Buildings 2015 – 2020' continues on from, and adds detail to, the General Policy Plan 2015 - 2020 of Stichting Het Nationale Park De Hoge Veluwe (*Foundation for the Hoge Veluwe National Park* – 'the Foundation'). This Policy Plan is formed within this policy framework. A characteristic of the Park - as an estate business - is an integrated, long-term input. There is a strong bond within the landscape between ecology and heritage. The survival of an estate depends on economic drivers. The policy for the Park is founded on the balance between ecology and economy.

The consistency of the policy is further made concrete by the way in which the term 'active management' is understood and implemented. In unpacking this concept, a clear distinction is made between 'soft' management and maintenance (nature¹ and landscape²) and 'hard' management (infrastructure and buildings). In respect of both hard and soft aspects, the principles on which the policy is founded will guide the measures to be adopted over the years ahead. The policy plan will conclude with a description of the enabling conditions and reference to plans derived herefrom.

1. Objectives

The Foundation was established in 1935 to protect the heritage of the married couple Kröller-Müller.

Its objective is to maintain and strengthen the independence of the three pillars of nature & landscape, art & architecture, and history, and to enable as many visitors as possible to enjoy these experiences.

Within this overall objective, the Park aims to maintain and develop the image of the landscapes of the Veluwe that the married couple Kröller-Müller discovered at the start of the 1900s and the landscapes that developed thereafter. This requires management of the vegetation that is characteristic of these landscapes. The fauna that belong to this vegetation are likewise either directly or indirectly managed, according to type. First and foremost is the maintenance and reinforcing of the quality of the nature and landscape, and their relationship with the existing infrastructure and buildings, taking into account recreational value.

¹ By 'nature' we mean the presence (and inter-relationship) of flora and fauna.

²By 'landscape' we mean a large-scale spatial entity characterised by a certain appearance and structure, dynamism, development, and internal cohesion.

2. Nature and landscape

The policy is aimed at preserving the variety of landscapes and cultural-historical stratification. The management of nature has been continued since the start of the 20th century, when the Kröller-Müllers began to buy the land. The Park has thus built up over one hundred years of knowledge and experience. The type and actual implementation of management is determined by weighing-up functions per management type, whereby the following functions are identified and assigned their underlying principles:

- nature: focus on biodiversity;
- landscape: maintenance and development of variation and stratification;
- experience: creating a feeling and attaching significance;
- cultural history: maintaining and making perceptible;
- production: increasing productivity.

The basic principle is management and repair of the natural system at landscape level, by which the Park strives for a high bio-diversity that includes many types from the 'Red List'. There is constant research of the flora and fauna in situ. The Park is working on a management re-evaluation system to monitor the effects of the management on the quality of the management types. The work undertaken and data will be recorded in a geographical information system (GIS).

In general, active management will involve taking measures such as turfing, lowing, burning, felling, razing, hunting, and the removal of invasive³ species.

Looking ahead, the Park will focus on system recovery. The emphasis will lie on the types of open terrain, which contain the greatest biodiversity. Open terrains will be kept open, and where necessary and possible will be linked together. The Park will follow its tradition of adopting innovative methods, such as the use of finely-ground stone to recover mineral soil fertility and buffer capacity.

This focus on open terrains means that there will be additional, beneficial felling to ensure a more gradual transition from open terrain to forest.

In managing forested areas the aim is to achieve a more natural and varied make-up of forest. This will be formed through:

- managed felling;
- natural rejuvenation;
- protection of hardwood types from plant-eating animals;
- increasing the proportion of hardwood;
- experimenting with new species (lime, maple, wood production species);
- wood yield aimed at 80% of annual increment.

³ By 'invasive species' we mean non-indigenous species that are shown to be harmful to the living environment.

The management of the Park will have regard to its cultural-historical values and its value as an experience. The Park aims to preserve the familiarity of the current cultural-historical landscapes by making elements and structures visible and perceptible. Its management will also pay respect to other values, such as its geography and archaeology. Additional research into cultural-historical values will be needed to complete the GIS-databank. By consulting all GIS data before taking any management and repair measures, cultural-historical values can be taken into account.

The Park's management pays greater attention to fauna by, for example, planting berry-bearing plants, developing vegetation consisting of pollen-producing and herbaceous plants, and by re-introducing field herbs. The management of wildlife is expressly geared to the management of nature. The Park aims for sufficient coverage, visibility of wildlife, and rejuvenation of wood types (especially hardwood).

The zoning as described in the Visitor Management Plan forms the basis of a good balance between ecology and economy. Zoning is based on the protection of the most important and vulnerable ecological values. The Park is divided into three zones: quiet, moderately busy, and busy (see appendix 1). In areas where nature is given first priority (quiet zone), recreational activities must not leave behind any long-term traces. The infrastructure will be modified in order to promote the visibility of wild animals based on their natural behaviour, and to limit disruption. Within the Park it is not permitted to wander off the roads and paths - whether using a GPS or otherwise – without the supervision of a Park warden.

3. Infrastructure and buildings

The long-term plan for the management and maintenance of the infrastructure and buildings stipulates a continuous focus on quality. The Park has an obligation to guarantee the safety of visitors and its employees through careful management and maintenance. Protected monuments will be properly cared for with professionalism and having regard to quality. Repair work will be carried out by specialists. The policy for projects aims at adapting what is already there to modern demands, having regard first and foremost to functionality. Where adapting what is there is insufficient to achieve the desired results, a choice will instead be made for demolition, downgrading, new building, and new installation. Decisions on these issues will always concentrate on the cultural-historical value and value of experience, but also - and equally - on safety and sustainability. The Park has a policy of using sustainable materials. In renovation and new building work as much use will be made as possible of the opportunities to conserve energy and water.

From a cultural history perspective, renovation and new building work within the Park will pay special attention to the architecture, having regard to:

- The highest quality in terms of architectonics;
- aesthetics;
- cohesion between buildings.

The development of the infrastructure and the location of buildings is guided principally by the zoning within the Park.

The management and maintenance of the infrastructure is further determined according to an improvement plan for roads, paths and cycle tracks. The principles underlying this improvement plan are:

- to keep traffic flows as separate from each other as possible;
- to plan these routes having regard to the nature and experience of the landscape;
- to resolve and prevent dangerous traffic situations;
- to improve value where necessary, downgrade where possible;
- to encourage parking at Park entrances.

Alongside the renovation and new building projects as set out in the Visitors' Management Plan, the policy also provides for the normal management and maintenance of buildings.

4. Projects

During 2015 – 2020 the policy as described above will involve the following projects:

- nature and landscape:
 - ✓ restoration of the heath landscape:
 - quality improvements by applying finely ground stone to drift sand, existing heathland, species-rich grasslands, and juniper bushes;
 - ✓ restoration of natural wetlands:
 - quality improvements for the Deelense Veld marshes;
 - quality improvements by water logging De Bunt;
 - ✓ quality improvements for woods;
 - ✓ specific management of specific species. Where needed, the Park will reintroduce species (black grouse, rabbit, and partridge);
 - ✓ contribution to ecological connectivity (connecting open terrains):
 - connecting heathlands between Otterlose Zand and Reemsterzand;
 - ✓ redesign of surroundings of the Jachthuis Sint Hubertus (reverting to the powerful original design of H.P. Berlage);
 - ✓ implementation of projects based on a cultural-historical vision;

- buildings and infrastructure:
 - ✓ renovation / restoration of buildings;
 - ✓ revising of route network to resolve dangerous traffic situations;
 - ✓ resolving bottlenecks in the cycle route network (laying of cycle tracks);
 - ✓ laying new access road and car park for the central area.

5. Enabling conditions

It is not possible for Park employees to carry out all the work arising from the management and maintenance of nature, landscape, infrastructure, and buildings on their own. The required research projects will therefore involve the participation of universities, other research institutes, and the *Vereniging van Vrienden van de Hoge Veluwe* (Association of Friends of the Hoge Veluwe). The Park will guide this outside assistance on the basis of a clearly-formulated research policy. New management interventions will preferably not be introduced until after thorough research.

The Park will work on a project-by-project basis with the Antea Group to carry out the management, maintenance, and renovation work. Bosgroep Midden Nederland is another important partner in the area of nature and landscape management. A part of the physical work in respect of woods and landscapes will be contracted out to the IPC Groene Ruimte and Sociale Werkvoorziening Presikhaaf. A lot of additional work will be pursued with the assistance of volunteers (such as the removal of sapling pine trees).

A number of substantial implementation projects are envisaged for the near future. These will be carried out in close collaboration with landscape architects. The completion of major renovation work and alterations depends on obtaining additional financial resources and, where relevant, the necessary planning permits.

From a management perspective, major work carried out in the Park will not be immediately understood by everyone. Before this kind of work is begun, additional attention will be focused on effective communications with people in the surroundings.

6. Plans

This policy plan will provide a direction for the following plans:

- Management Plan for Nature, Landscape, and Cultural History;
- Long-Term Plan for Infrastructure Maintenance;
- Long-Term Plan for Buildings Maintenance.

Appendix 1 Zoning

current

future



*** Druk = Busy; Matig druk = Relatively busy; Rustig = Quiet**

Appendix 2 Critical performance indicators

1. Maintaining ecological quality: over 80% of all management types to score 'good' in 2020 for structural characteristics and type of objective (based on the method described in the Management Plan for Nature, Landscape, and Cultural History);
2. Management Evaluation System:
 - a. annual monitoring of management and its effects on flora and fauna;
 - b. once every six years an evaluation of the overall picture of the Park (including structural characteristics);
3. Improving ecological quality through carrying out the nature recovery projects, more specifically by:
 - a. 200 hectares of soil mineral content to be improved using finely ground stone;
 - b. 100 hectares of woods to be felled to create open terrain (connecting areas of heathland);
4. In 2020 the condition of protected monuments to be scored as 'satisfactory' or 'good'.