



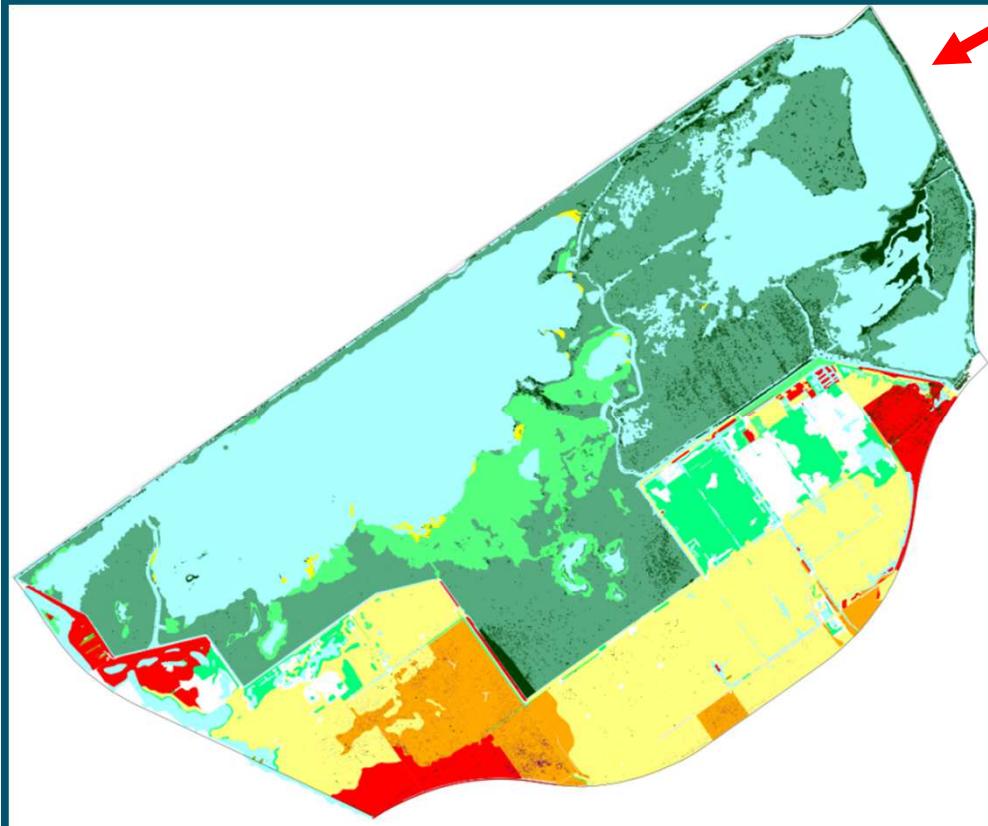
# Staatsbosbeheer

# Oostvaardersplassen

Hans Breeveld



# Oostvaardersplassen



1969

- Lowest part of the polder (planned industrial area)
- Spontaneous vegetation development
- Wetland birds
- Agricultural development border
- Dike to preserve the marsh
- Ramsar wetland
- European Bird Directive
- Natura 2000 area



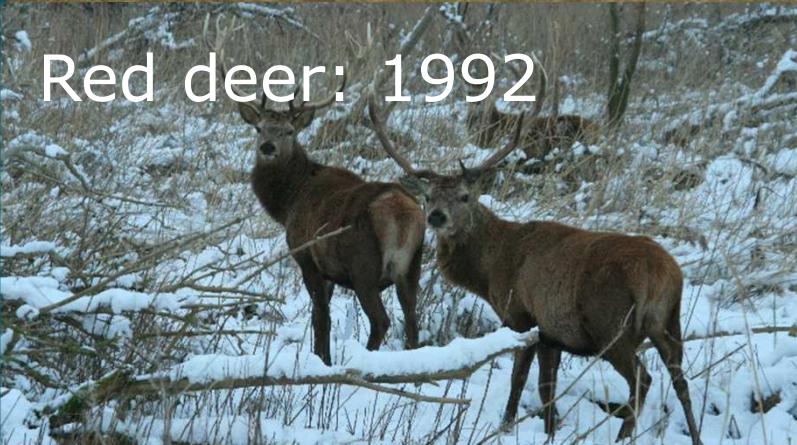
Heck cattle: 1983



Konik horses: 1984

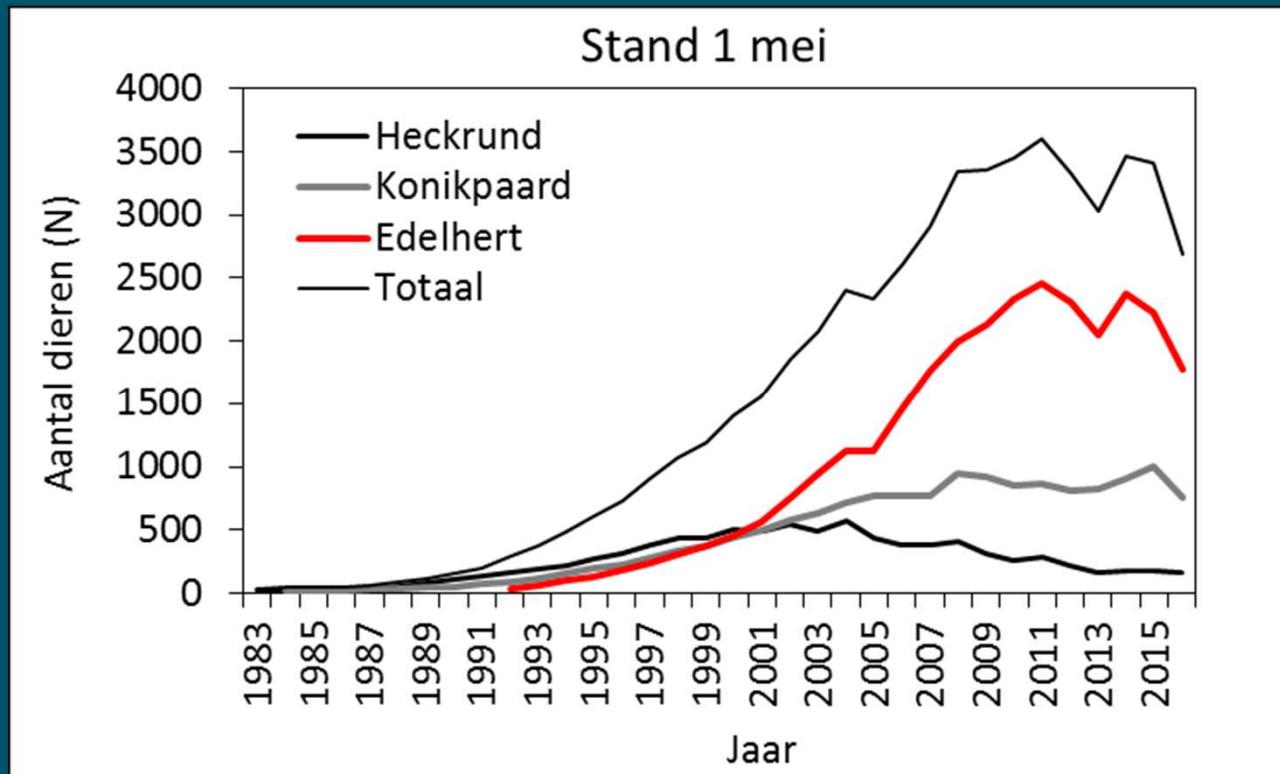


Red deer: 1992



To create large scale short grazed grasslands and open water bodies for wetland related N2000 bird species

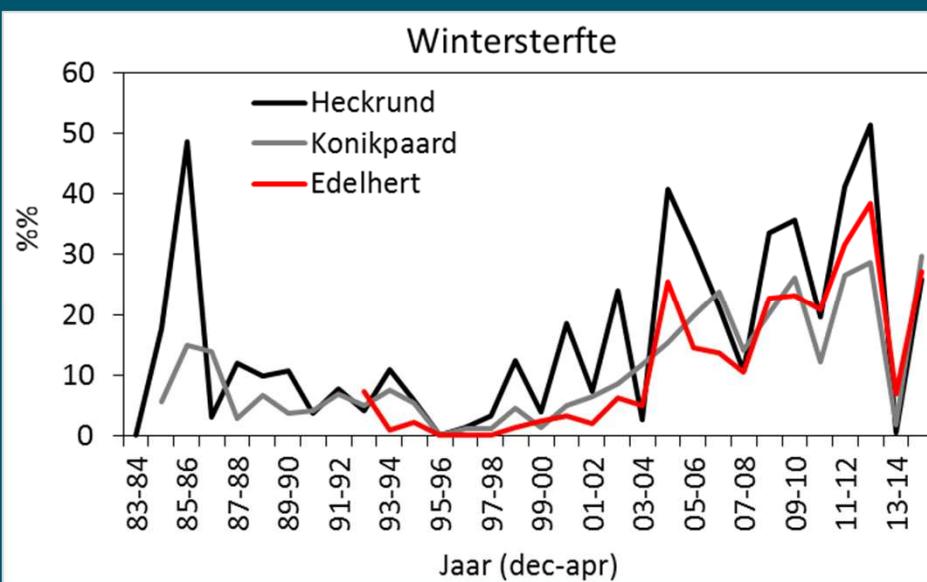




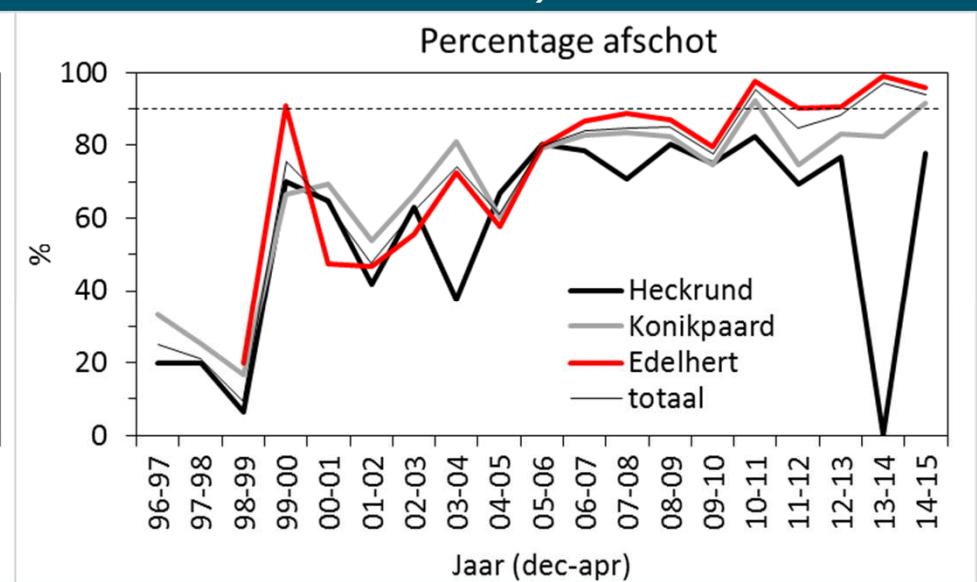


- fenced area, no large predators
- no culling to control large herbivore numbers
- no introduction of new individuals
- early reactive management to prevent unnecessary suffering

Total mortality (% pop.)



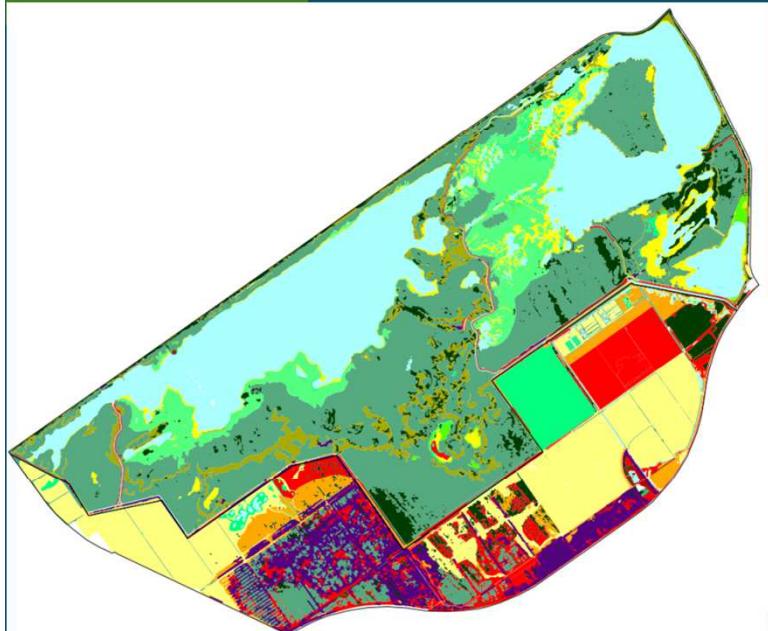
Early reactive management (% total mort.)



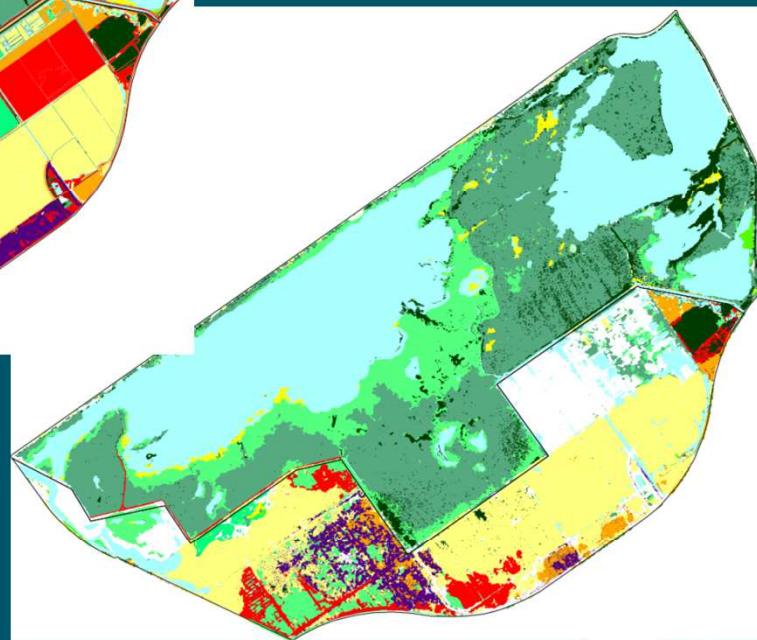


# Vegetation development border zone

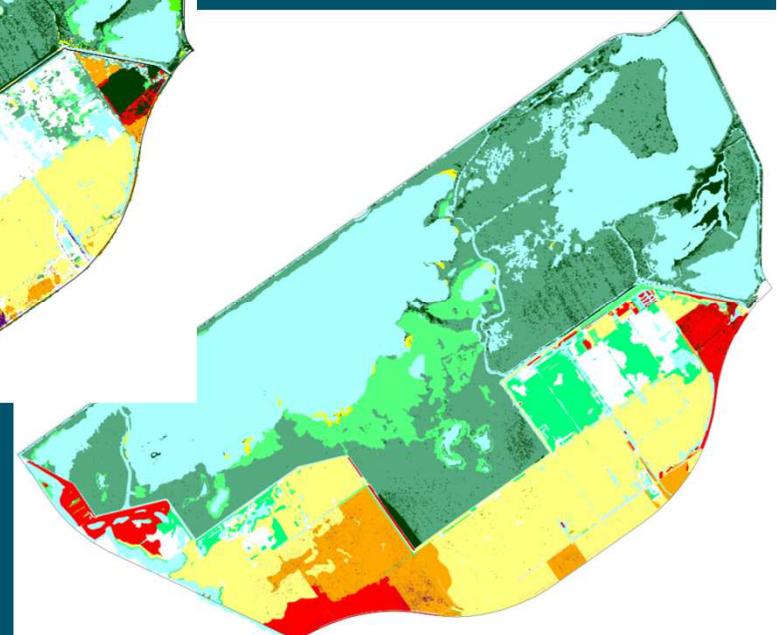
1996



2004



2012

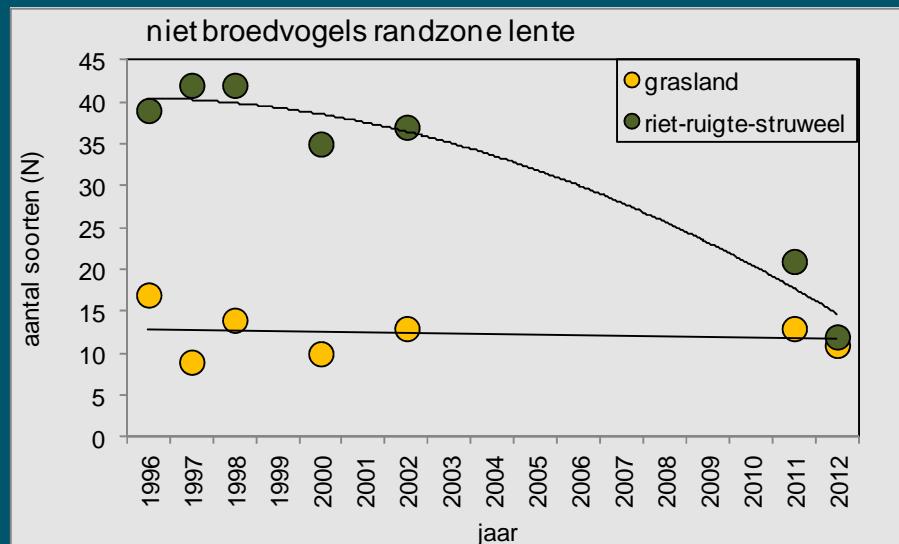


- Increase large scale open grasslands
- Decrease tall herbs, reed, shrubs and trees

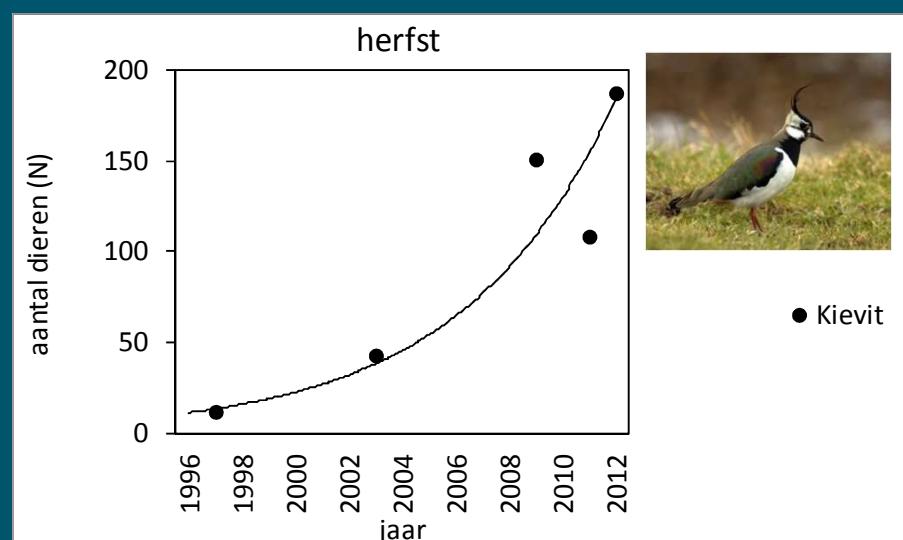
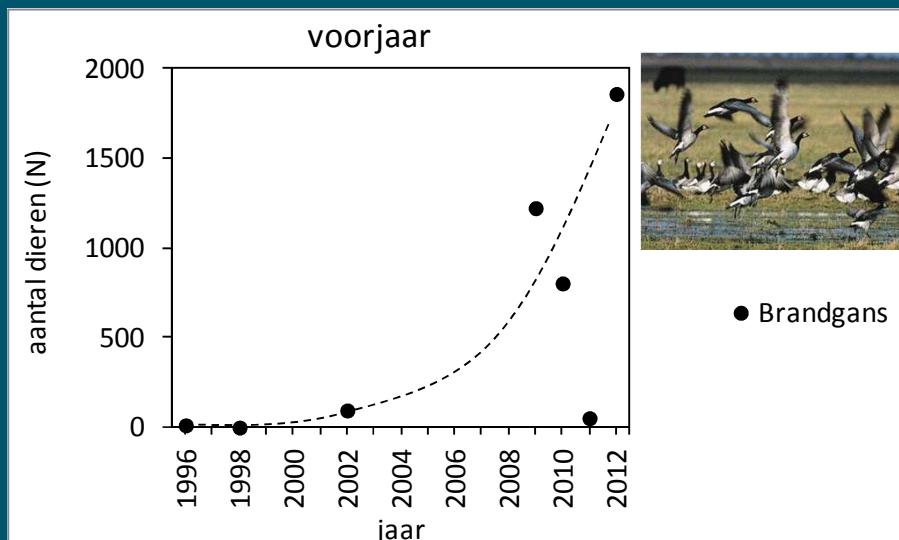
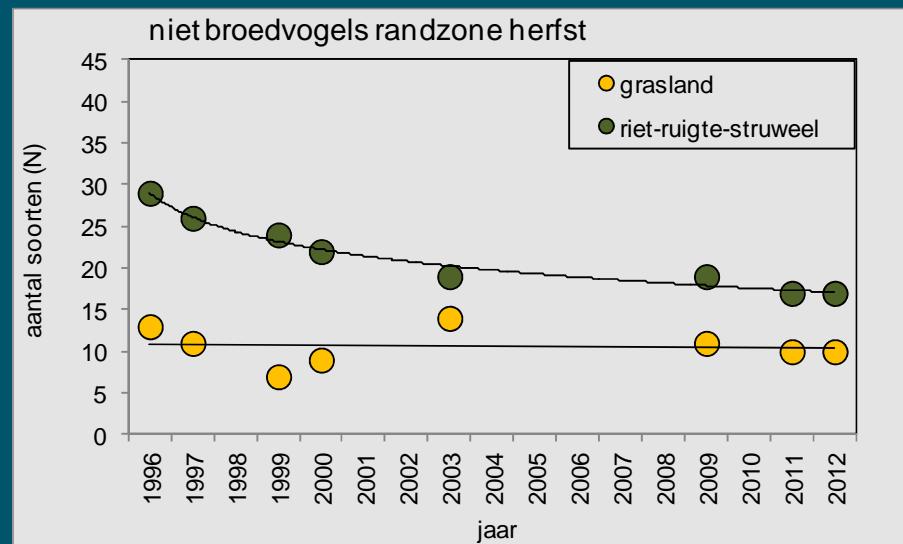


# Birds border zone: diversity and numbers

## Breeding season



## Migration season





# Conclusions:

- Main concerns, beside N2000, welbeing of animals (Early reactive culling is succesfull).
- Welbeing is a “hot” item with in the society.
- Transparency about managment is very important.
- Expectations are met, but there is much more to be learned about ecosystems in wetlands.
- Room for development, instead of fixed managment.
- Dynamics are the key issues.
- Large herbivores play a key role in ecosystems.
- Connections with other area's is most important.