

Summary

Temporary Nature and protected species: permanent gains. An ecological rationale, Linnartz, L. (Ark Nature Development)

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The hypothesis of this analysis was that temporary nature creates many winners and no losers. Next we dealt with the various strategies of species and the diverse starting situations of temporary nature. We also looked at each protected species to see whether – and, if so, how – they can be expected to respond to temporary nature. This showed the following:

Particularly the **pioneers and early species will benefit from temporary nature**. They are ecologically adapted for this purpose. They move in quickly, use the area as a stepping stone or temporary source area, and then disappear when the later succession stages arrive or the temporary nature area is given its definite use. These are partly species that currently have a very hard time establishing themselves in the Netherlands due to the absence of natural dynamics. Temporary nature will be beneficial for Birds and Habitats Directives species that follow these strategies. The loss of the habitats with the passage of time is, as it were, inherent in the nature of these species. Both directives already prescribe that suitable habitats must be provided, with or without temporary nature, so temporary nature can help to fulfil the international obligations.

Thanks to their mobility birds can easily relocate elsewhere and plants do this by means of their seeds. This other location can either be a temporary nature area in a favourable phase of development or existing nature areas in or outside the Netherlands. The drainage of the North East Polder and Eastern and Southern Flevoland has shown that marsh birds like the greylag goose, marsh harrier and bearded reedling are able to draw permanent and even international gains from temporary marshy nature.

The **late species will draw little or no benefit, but will not suffer any negative effects either**. The chance of late species ending up in a temporary nature area is small. If they do set up home here, then the source and stepping stone functions for these species will be limited; in the best-case scenario, part of the population growth will be retained after the site has been developed.



So temporary nature yields no added value for these species, but does not impair their favourable state of maintenance either.

Of the individual species we looked at each species to see whether temporary nature influences the favourable state of maintenance for that species. **Not a single species can be expected to suffer a negative population effect from temporary nature.**

Population growth due to temporary nature which is followed, as a result of the definite development of the site, by **a decrease to below the starting level of the species can only be expected if the habitat of that species outside the temporary nature area was already not (or no longer) suitable.** In that case we, as the Netherlands, have failed to fulfil our European obligations, but the actual cause of this failure has nothing to do with temporary nature.

In short: temporary nature only has ecological winners and no losers.

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permanent benefits