



ICMO

International Committee on the Management of the Oostvaardersplassen

Aanbieding ICMO advies

22 juni 2006

Den Haag



PROGRAMMA

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 16.30 uur | Ontvangst in Nieuwspoort te Den Haag |
| 16.40 uur | Hoofdpunten ICMO advies en overhandiging door Dzsingisz Gabor |
| 16.55 uur | Reactie op ICMO advies door minister Veerman |
| 17.15 uur | Toelichting op advies door de commissieleden Tim Clutton-Brock (<i>Universiteit van Cambridge, UK</i>) en John Montague (<i>Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK</i>) en |
| 17.45 uur | Gelegenheid tot vragen onder leiding van Marcel Schuttelaar (<i>Schuttelaar & Partners</i>) |
| 18.15 uur | Borrel |



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Tim Clutton-Brock

Universiteit van Cambridge, UK

Some facts of Life

- Some animal populations are limited by predators but most are limited by food availability.
- As a result, in naturally regulated populations, considerable numbers of animals starve each year, usually towards the end of winter.
- Older and younger individuals are most likely to die.
- Annual mortality fluctuates between years, in some cases exceeding 50% of the population.
- Annual levels of mortality of deer, horses and cattle in the Oostvaardersplassen over the last few years have been high – but by no means as high as in some other similar systems.

Options for managing herbivores in the Oostvaardersplassen

- **No intervention**
 - Minimum management where herbivore populations are allowed to self-regulate without interference.
- **Proactive culling or removal of animals in autumn**
 - Culls of this kind might be organised in a variety of ways. For example, they could attempt to mimic predation or natural winter mortality. In addition, they could either aim to maintain populations at a fixed level or could be adjusted to variation in resource availability.
- **Reactive culling**
 - A policy where individuals below thresholds determined by welfare criteria are culled on a daily basis – mostly in winter.
- **Contraception**
 - Artificially controlling the reproductive rate of the population.

Considerations

- Maintain suitable habitats for birds
- Minimise human intervention
- Minimise animal suffering
- Avoid routine killing of large numbers of healthy animals

Options

- **No intervention**
 - Not acceptable for welfare reasons.
- **Proactive culling**
 - The normal practice where carcasses would be utilised but would need adjustment in late winter.
- **Reactive culling**
 - Most similar to natural mortality; could limit animal suffering if carried out effectively.
- **Contraception**
 - Not feasible.



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John Montague

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK

OOSTVAARDERSPLASSEN

Presentation of Recommendations of the ICMO

Animal Welfare Issues

John Montague, Veterinary Adviser
(Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK)

22 June 2006

ANIMAL WELFARE VALUE SYSTEMS

- Production System perspective
 - Optimal Conditions growth/reproduction
 - Healthy animals in prime of life culled as food source
- Human perspective
 - Animals look, feel and behave “happily”
 - Duty of care to intervene to avoid suffering
 - Avoidance of killing healthy animals
- Natural/Ecological perspective
 - Non intervention by man
 - Population management through Natural Selection
 - Right of individuals to struggle and to survive

WELFARE STANDARDS WITHIN OVP

NOT ONE BEST SINGLE SOLUTION FOR OVP

Welfare vision must be consistent with

- Minimum intervention ecosystem (created by Man)
- Populations of large herbivores regulated by carrying capacity of ecosystem
- Intervention necessary to protect animal welfare and avoid intolerable end of life suffering
- Populations will fluctuate in response to resource availability and natural winter mortality

CONSEQUENCES OF WELFARE APPROACH

OVP AT LOWER END OF OBSERVED DIE OFF LEVELS IN NATURAL PLANT/HERBIVORE SYSTEMS

- Higher mortality possible in future
- In excess of 50% in some years
- Variable impact – Heck Cattle may decline

PREVENTION OF END OF LIFE SUFFERING – REACTIVE CULLING

Euthanasia of animals with signs and behaviour that suggest unlikely to survive

Advantages

- Maintains Natural/Minimal Intervention of OVP
- Intolerable end of life suffering controlled

Dependencies

- Strict criteria – 90% killed prior to collapse
- Provision of enough resources to deliver
- Publish plan, outcomes and animal data

SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING

Disadvantages

- Provision over Winter (PROPHYLACTIC)
Interventionist system → increased carrying capacity → increased herd size → More mortality
- Provision in Emergency (REACTIVE)
 - No immediate benefit – Time to adapt/accept new diet
 - Bullying at feed points
 - Suffering if weak

Solution

Provision of additional natural shelter/feed in Emergency (extreme conditions) by opening up Hollandse Hout

SHELTER

Winter Mortality involves:

- Interaction of feed levels and environmental stress

Environmental stress through wind chill

- Combination of temperature, wind speed, wind direction, wind characteristics and precipitation

Reduce wind chill impact and potential suffering by providing natural shelter from prevailing winds

DELIVERY/MONITORING/ EVALUATION

- OVP is a unique ecosystem
- Constantly evolving with site specific priorities and parameters to be established
- Interrelationships of birds/plants/grazers within ecosystem to be described
- Full research potential to be exploited to allow specific ecological model development
- In depth review in 5 years to critical assess ICMO recommendations



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Meer informatie vanaf 26 juni op:

www.wing.wur.nl/ICMO

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