

ICMO 2

- OVP at the interface between science and society -

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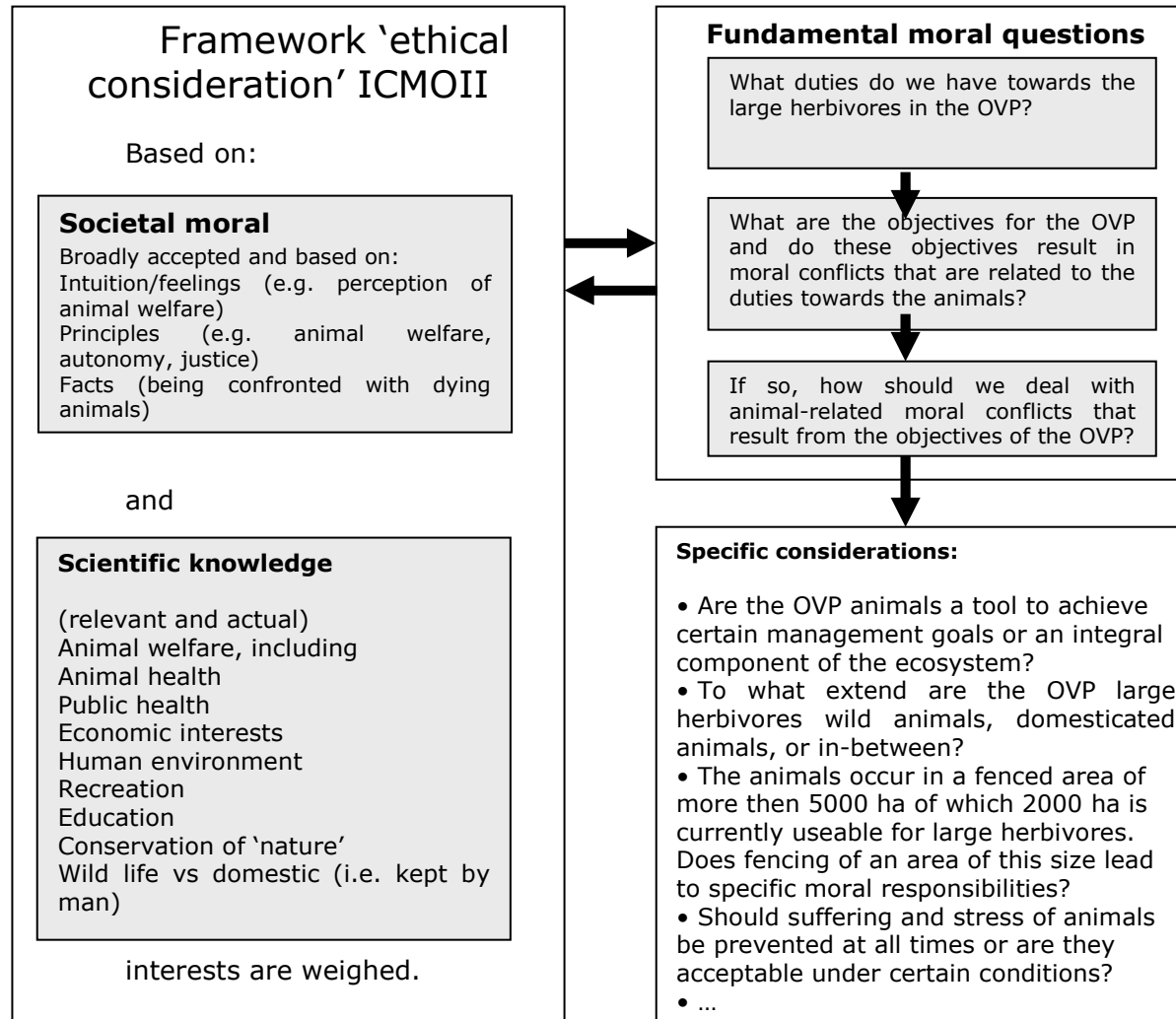


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Members

- Drs. J.D. Gabor, chairman, former State Secretary of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature management and Fisheries (1990-1994)
- Prof. dr. J.J.M. van Alphen, professor of Ecology at Leiden University
- Prof. dr. T.H. Clutton-Brock, professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Cambridge, UK
- Drs. J. Kaandorp, chief veterinary surgeon Safaripark Beekse Bergen, Hilvarenbeek
- Prof. dr. F. Ohl, professor of Animal Welfare and Laboratory Animal Science at Utrecht University
- Prof. dr. H. Olf, professor of Community and Conservation Ecology at the University of Groningen
- Prof. dr. R.J. Putman, emeritus professor Wildlife Biology, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK
- Prof. dr. D. Reynolds, former Chief Veterinary Officer, UK

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Moral dilemma's

The existence of an area as OVP is in itself to be of high value for society

➤ moral dilemma between the value of the existence of a 'natural area' and the value of 'animal welfare'.

The status of the large herbivores in the OVP is 'in between' fully wild and domesticated/managed.

➤ animal oriented (e.g. early reactive culling to prevent unnecessary suffering) and environment-oriented care (promotion of suitable habitat conditions, ecosystem processes) has to take place to reflect the moral and ethical considerations for these animals.

ICMO accepts that natural processes imply that there will be periods of negative welfare conditions

➤ animals do not have to be protected from food-shortage (hunger) thirst etc, but they shall have the opportunity to respond appropriately to such privation

- Open communication on objectives, ongoing developments and, not the least, ethical considerations is of crucial importance to improve societal understanding and acceptance.
- Whether considered wild or "kept", there is a moral obligation to take all necessary measures to minimise the extent of any unnecessary suffering in animals.

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Uitgangspunten:

- NATURA 2000
- natuurlijke processen
- onnodig lijden van grote grazers voorkomen
- optimaliseren van welzijn grote grazers (beschutting!)
- transparantie/maatschappelijk draagvlak

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Veranderingen tov ICMO 1:

- filosofie (grote grazers deel van het systeem; niet-interventie is niet leidend)
- vroeg re-actief afschieten
- grote grazers tussen 'wild' en 'gehouden'
- betrokkenheid van stakeholders en maatschappij
- openheid voor wetenschappelijk onderzoek

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Package of measures from 2011 until Oostvaarderswold is opened for the large herbivores

- Implement the improved strategy on early reactive culling (A2)
- Implement population reduction when needed (A5)
- Open Hollandse Hout in winter (B3)
- Open Kotter Bos throughout the year (B2a)
- Evaluate experience with Kotterbos, and Oostvaarderswissel to see if Hollandse Hout can also be opened on a permanent basis
- Take necessary steps to open the 120m wide pathway (Oostvaarderswissel) first for red deer and later for konik horse and Heck cattle (B5)
- Do not provide supplementary food or contraception (C1)
- Implement the water management plan (D 3,4,5)
- Maintain stakeholder forum and scientific advisory board (E 2,3,4)
- Perform a full independent review in 2015

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Measures after Oostvaarderswold is realised (Oostvaardersland)

- Depending on evaluation in 2015, the above measures will either continue or change. From the current perspective the package should be as follows
- Continue with early reactive culling (A2)
- Implement population reduction if needed (A5)
- Open Hollandse Hout throughout the year (B4)
- Keep Kotter Bos open (B2a)
- Do not provide supplementary food (C1)
- Implement and improve Habitat/Water plan (D3,4,5)
- Maintain stakeholder forum and scientific advisory board (E 2,3,4)
- Instigate review by an independent board every year

Not agreed on by state secretary

- Develop a contingency plan for a population reduction. Have plan ready to reduce the population if early reactive culling (A2) does not work and large scale starvation is likely to occur. If population reduction is required, ICMO2 recommends that this should mimic a population crash and that populations of one, two or all 3 species should be reduced at irregular intervals (A5).
- Create about 500 ha of extra shelter by opening Hollandse Hout in winter.
- Provide winter shelter by temporarily connecting/including part of the Hollandse Hout to the current grazing area. About 50% of the Hollandse Hout should be included in the grazing area (B4).

Under investigation by state secretary

- Create at least 150 ha of extra shelter by opening adjacent Driehoek, Kotterbos (first part), Oostvaardersbos woodland areas (see figure xx): Provide winter shelter for all large herbivores by temporarily connecting part of these areas to the current grazing area (*B3a*).
- Initiate the creation of a corridor (Oostvaarderswissel) to the Horsterwold. This pathway is an adequate short term solution to improve welfare conditions, first for red deer, and later for konik horse and Heck cattle by connecting the OVP to the Horsterwold. This pathway is located on the former spatial reservation for the A30 highway. This area has already been designated as EHS since 2006 and has never been agricultural land (B6) (see below for further details).

Agreed on by state secretary

- Adapt a new strategy of early reactive culling and start implementing it on December 15. This includes culling of animals that are visibly in poor condition or with deviant behaviour before unnecessary suffering occurs in late winter (see 3.3 for further details). Apply the same management to all three species (A2)
- Avoid using contraception of females in all three species (no A3). See below for further details.
- Create 1000 m of shelter ridges in the sandy part (de Stort) of the OVP, so that horses and cattle can find shelter.
- Avoid supplementary feeding. Although supplementary feeding might seem to provide a solution, ICMO2 recommends that it should not be used for the reasons given in paragraph 3.3 (C1).
- Develop a plan for water management. This plan should include active measures to ensure that the habitat diversity and successional stages of these habitats are given room to develop in the long term. The plan also could include geomorphological adjustments and is vital for maintaining bird biodiversity. We leave further details to experts in this field (D3,D4).
- Improve governance and establish a scientific advisory board (E2,E3,E4).
- Develop appropriate long-term stakeholder involvement through installation of a formal stakeholder forum.
- Establish a scientific advisory board which, together with SBB, should develop an agenda of research priorities for the area, and should evaluate the results of ongoing research. The scientific board should also approve which research should have priority, and should guard against negative effects of research and stimulate the implementation and funding of the research agenda
- Install a taskforce to oversee the immediate implementation of the key aspects of the winter package that ICMO2 formulated
- Establish an internal PR committee with links to the stakeholder forum and to the scientific advisory board (see Appendix I last point).
- Review this package shortly after April 1, 2011. An immediate operational review is needed to adjust measures on culling for the winter of 2011/2012. This review is also needed to ensure progress on the provision of shelter.

Adjustments

Package of measures from 2011 until Oostvaarderswold is opened for large herbivores ^[1]

- Implement the improved strategy on early reactive culling (A2)
- ~~Implement population reduction when needed (A5)~~
- ~~Open Hollandse Hout in winter (B4)~~
- Open Kotter Bos throughout the year (B2a)
- ~~Evaluate experience with Kotterbos, and Oostvaarderswissel to see if Hollandse Hout can also be opened on a permanent basis~~
- Evaluate necessary steps to open the 120m wide pathway (Oostvaarderswissel) first for red deer and later for konik horse and Heck cattle (B6, B7)
- Do not provide supplementary food or contraception (C1, A3)
- Implement the water management plan (D 3,4,5)
- Maintain BAC and stakeholder forum (E 2,3,4)
- Perform a full independent review in 2015

[1] Numbers in brackets, as above, refer to paragraphs of the ICMO2 report while alphanumeric references (A3... etc) cross-refer to Tables of Appendix IV in that same report