

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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STICHTING het nationale park
de Hoge veluwe



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Foreword

Education isn't a 'luxury'

You can come across some wonderful characters dressed in yellow bibs on any day of the year when you go for a walk or bike ride in De Hoge Veluwe National Park. They're usually students who are learning how to do field research in a nature reserve as part of their course.

A bit further along, you might see a group of cyclists being shown around by a nature guide. They could be looking for a particular type of tree, or historical traces of the Second World War which can be found all over the Park. Finally, you can sit back and relax at the Park Restaurant veranda in the Central Area, where it's very possible you'll see a 'nature detective' with a long line of children, all using magnifying glasses to look for traces of animals.

Even though these might all seem like separate activities, they all fit into De Hoge Veluwe National Park's 'education policy'. Managing an important part of our heritage like the Park brings with it the responsibility to

share this collective knowledge with young and old. In 2016 the Park's education policy was put on the map even more firmly than before.. In this Annual Report, we introduce you to the people who work with this policy on a daily basis. You can read about the Policy Officer who tells stories to make visits to the Park more interesting. Or the teacher who goes out into the field with groups of students to identify all the different species of trees. Or read about the Landscape History Professor who sees scientific research as an engine for education and marketing.

The common theme: a great love for the Park, landscape, nature, and culture. And the passion to share and spread this love

with lots and lots of people. With young people, of course, as they're the visitors of the future, but also with adult visitors. Education isn't a 'luxury' in the eyes of the Park; it's an intrinsic part of the operations and management of the Netherlands' green treasure trove. The experiences you have as a visitor to the Park, the activities you undertake, and the stories you hear, all need to contribute to making further visits even more appealing. So attention for education has two major benefits: visitors have an enjoyable and interesting day, and the Park can pursue its economic model – which needs the income from paying visitors – responsibly.







Seger van Voorst tot Voorst

Director of De Hoge Veluwe National Park.

A positive message for young people

‘It’s extremely important to reach out to young people. They are after all the next generation who will vote, control, and decide our country’s future. And the people who - in ten or fifteen years’ time - will be shaping our nature policies. So it’s important to let children experience nature, to make sure they learn to love nature. And to show them that nature can’t speak for itself, that you have to look after it, and that you need to actively manage it.’

Behind the scenes

Before we talk more about the importance of education for De Hoge Veluwe National Park, we first take a look at 2016 with Seger van Voorst tot Voorst. It’s a year that at first sight doesn’t seem to have been a very exciting one. Van Voorst tot Voorst says, ‘Lots of the activities we run as an organization take place behind the scenes. Our day-to-day operations, the consolidation of our policy, and in particular the national and international lobbying that we do about our nature management methods require a lot of effort and manpower. In 2016 we’ve also been very busy fund-raising to modernize the Central Area. The financing of the new building here, with ‘Landhuis’ as the working title, is now as good as complete. The multifunctional building will have a very important knowledge-sharing and educational role, with

rooms to host groups of people.

There has been a great demand for this for many years and now, finally,

we can satisfy this requirement. It's a particularly important addition in terms of what the Park can offer school students. We're expecting the first building works to start in 2018.'

Stable visitor numbers

There were around 547,000 paying visitors in 2016, which is 17,000 more than estimated, but still slightly fewer than in 2015. Van Voorst tot Voorst says, 'Despite our poor weather in the spring, visitor numbers remained relatively stable in 2016 compared to previous years. This is partly because of the continuous programmes of appealing activities run by both the Park and the Kröller-Müller Museum, which mean there's always something to see and do at weekends and during the school holidays. We rely on paying visitors for our operations; this stability is very important for us. Stability and consistency is also the guiding principle

for our management methods. As a nature park, we need to find a good economic balance between recreation and nature management. Stable visitor numbers show that this is working well for us. Our active management methods mean we're engaging lots of visitors with as much biodiversity as possible. And our economic model is serving as an example for an increasing number of nature reserves across Europe. The European Commission has even described the Park as a 'Showcase'. We continued this tradition in 2016 with the slogan: don't change what's working well, unless you can improve it.'

Professionalization of education policy

De Hoge Veluwe National Park has always paid lots of attention to young people's activities and education. Just like the other nineteen National Parks in the Netherlands, De Hoge Veluwe National Park receives 0.2 FTE support from the Ministry of Economic Affairs for this aspect of its operations. Van Voorst tot Voorst says, 'We started to professionalize our education policy in 2016, and it's even higher on the agenda now. We work hard on education and are a very popular location for school trips. Admittance is free for primary schools, and secondary schools get a discount, which I think makes us the most affordable school outing in the country. Some forty to fifty thousand children visit every year - a huge number! But it's not just about giving schools a nice day out; we also need to actively engage young people with nature, so they learn something about how we as the Park manage our surroundings. The children of today

are the decision-makers of tomorrow, so it's extremely important we reach out to them.'

Offer experience

Seger van Voorst tot Voorst has three children who have all contributed to the young people's activities organized by the Park. He says, 'I can see very clearly that contact with nature really improves children's perspectives. They become very receptive to outside influences at a certain age, and that's when you need to be able to reach out to them, to take them with you through the narrative of nature. Their curiosity is piqued when you offer them alternatives to images on a screen or iPad, and make things exciting for them with an activity like animal tracking, lighting a camp fire, or building a hut. We as the Park can give children tremendous experiences at an age when they're receptive, to really let them experience something special. The children's summer safaris are a good example of this. That's what we need to translate into policy. In twenty years' time the iPad games will be forgotten, but the children's safari won't.'

Positive experience

Van Voorst tot Voorst emphasizes, 'We as the Park want to provide a positive experience. There are already enough 'doomsayers' in our world when it comes to ecology and sustainability, and the way in which we interact with our environment. We want to send out a positive message, and it's important

that children actually experience it, so they can realize there are huge benefits to looking after something properly, managing nature responsibly. Our Park scores very highly when it comes to biodiversity. It's one of our unique strong points and the direct consequence of our active management methods. We want to show this, and are happy to explain it to young people. We want them to see and experience that nature is also - and particularly - fun. It's an enjoyable and positive experience being active here in the Park, exploring and discovering things, doing things.'

The other voice

The Park also wants to encourage children to come back again after their school trip. Van Voorst tot Voorst says, 'Paying visitors are crucial for us. We hope that by giving children a fun day out when they come with their school, they're more likely to come back again with their parents or grandparents at a later date. So they can go on scavenger hunts, visit the Museonder museum, look for animal tracks with the forest ranger, or go on a quest for the lost museum. A visit to the Park - and to our most important partner, the Kröller-Müller Museum - needs to be a good experience that children can learn from too. When I look at the claims that some people make about nature, I see a lack of knowledge about the reality of nature management, which gives me even more motivation to teach children about how we deal with issues here. When it comes to nature management, we're 'the other voice'. We want to teach young people that 'nature' needs to be managed well, but also that this management costs money. The



main thing we want to give young people is of course a love for nature, and I see education as a crucial part of the sensible and good management of the Netherlands' green treasure trove: De Hoge Veluwe National Park.'



2016 Overview

The year in brief

January 2016

Film-maker and ecologist Ruben Smit, famous for his film *De Nieuwe Wildernis* (The New Wilderness), makes a series of short films about nature in De Hoge Veluwe. Each film features one species of animal living in the special biotope of the Deelense Veld, a wet heathland. This area strongly resembles a polar landscape in the winter months: a vast, rolling, tundra-like area. This winter, Smit filmed groups of common reed bunting, birds that eat seeds from purple moor-grass. He will be making more short films later in the year, including about the Alcon blue – a rare species of butterfly – and about water management in the area. The short films will ultimately be combined into one long nature film to be broadcast on national television. There was a change in the Supervisory Board's personnel in January, with Frank Schreve succeeding Fred de Graaf as chairman. Schreve was involved with the Park for almost 25 years as director and supervisor, and as chairman of the Supervisory Board for the last ten years. Fred de Graaf has lots of directorial experience, including as chairman of the Senate of the Netherlands and mayor of Apeldoorn.

He will supervise the modernization of the Park's Central Area.

February 2016

Education and the experience of nature are very important for the Park. Primary schools from all over the country therefore have free admittance, with secondary schools able to visit the Park for a discounted price. The Park is increasingly becoming a destination for school outings, field trips, and excursions. The number of primary schools visiting the Park is rising: 135 schools visited in 2014, and this figure rose to 250 in 2015, with children from 276 schools visiting the Park in 2016. There are lots of activities for children, including special themed excursions such as discovery tours with a unique sheep called Moeffie de Moeflon or the characters of famous Belgian comics series Suske & Wiske. Various programmes have also been specially developed for vocational and further education. We have also developed a positive new tradition where a number of retired rental bikes are refurbished and donated to a worthy cause abroad every year. In the past, these rental bikes have been sent to Kenya and to a nature park on the Galapagos Islands. This year around 100 (of

1,800 in total) bikes are being given a second life at a bike rental project in Slovakia. They are being donated to the 'Open Source Bike Share' volunteer project in Bratislava.

March 2016

The Easter holidays are traditionally the start of outdoor season in our country. Over the Easter weekend, De Hoge Veluwe National Park organizes an Easter market in the Central Area. Around 1,000 people visited this year. The Easter market is a much-loved part of the Park's activities policy. The aim is to organize two activities every weekend. These can be small-scale activities, such as a children's theatre performance or a horn-blowing recital, or larger activities such as the Wood and Forest Day, the Day of the Horse, or the popular National 'Belling' Championships. The activities are very much appreciated by the general public, as shown by the public surveys and increasing visitor numbers. The monthly local markets and De Hoge Veluwe readings are particularly well attended.

April 2016

The popular natural campsite in the grounds of De Hoge Veluwe National Park has its first full month in April. The campsite will close again on 1 November this year. There were almost 15,000 overnight stays this year, a 10% increase on the forecast made last year. A ranking of the Netherlands' most-visited daytime recreation destinations appears this month. It shows

that De Hoge Veluwe National Park is the third most-visited destination in Gelderland. The top three spots on the national list are taken by Efteling theme park, the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, and the Van Gogh Museum. Nature parks are thin on the ground in the list, so the Park is happy with 32nd place.

De Hoge Veluwe Highland Games are held for the fifth time this month, with around 300 students from bilingual education competing against each other in glorious disciplines such as tree trunk sawing, tractor pulling, and boulder throwing. Seven educational institutions from the region take part. The event is supervised by students from Isendoorn College in Zutphen.

May 2016

The Nature Game will be launched in the Park this month during a special celebration.. Children (and their parents) can play this game on iPads that can be hired from the Visitors Centre. The interactive game sends you on a quest through the Park, searching for 'Het Mysterie van het Nooit Gebouwde Museum' (The Mystery of the Museum that was Never Built). In the game you get to meet the founders of the Park, Mr and Mrs the Kröller-Müller, and find out about the landscape and animals around you. The game was created by DoornRoos Imagineers and partly financed by the Province of Gelderland and the Ministry of Economic Affairs. DoornRoos Imagineers was involved in designing the PandaVision attraction at Efteling theme park. The traditional 'Early Bird Concert' at the foot of the Franse Berg hill again attracted lots of

music lovers this year. The Britten Youth Orchestra, a group of talented strings players from the eastern parts of the Netherlands, is performing this time.

The Netherlands' best-known ornithologist, Nico de Haan, also talks about the many birds that can be heard singing in the month of May near the foundations of the never-built 'great museum' by Helene Kröller-Müller.

June 2016

Lots of visitors notice large piles of tree trunks alongside the paths in the Park. This wood harvest is part of De Hoge Veluwe National Park's active nature management policy. Policy harvesting thins out wooded sections to improve the area's natural value and increase biodiversity. Consultations with the Park's flora and fauna working groups take place before the activities commence. The felling works are carried out early this year, in the dry season, which keeps damage to dirt tracks relatively limited. The wood it produces is an important source of income for the Park, which does not receive any subsidies for its structural operations. Total revenue from wood sales is slightly above €257,000 this year.

A number of events around the theme of 'Germany' are organized in collaboration with the German Traffic Agency this month: the Germany Days are on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 June. The activities are visited by around 7,500 people. The annual Day of the Horse coincides with the Germany Days, and so is given a German feel.



July 2016

A number of 'children's night safaris' are again held under the supervision of the forest ranger in the summer months. The safaris are very popular and were fully booked again this year. The second edition of the Junior Nature Expedition also took place this summer. Around 250 children and their parents took part in a weekend of fun surveys and activities in nature. The Park pays lots of attention to education.

These types of events are a good example of this, but there are also activities for students run in collaboration with schools. The 'Van Luchtkasteel tot Dassenburcht' educational programme for primary school students has been running for quite some time and is very popular with over 500 students attending every year. This year, the new 'Ede Heritage Education' learning pathway includes a tour of Jachthuis Sint Hubertus, with students given special complementary lessons about heritage and the Park in advance. Primary schools from Ede can also make use of free bus transport to the Park.

August 2016

The annual Dutch 'belling' championship is receiving more and more attention from the press, and attracting increasing numbers of visitors. This time the it was attended by some 400 people.

Other activities in the Park, such as the second edition of the annual Wood and Forest Day, also generate lots of attention from the press. Under the supervision of keen lumberjack Erben Wennemars, visitors have the opportunity to roll their sleeves up while learning about forest management.

There is good news from the Flora working group active in the Park when it reports finding the rare *Goodyera repens* orchid during a species inventory in the north of the Park in the Siberia forest area. This wild orchid grows in more humid pine forest areas, and is otherwise only found in pine forests in dune habitats.

The rutting of red deer, very much loved by the photographing public, starts in August. The rutting can be

seen

from public roads such as the Wildbaanweg, but visitors can also go on a special rutting trip led by the forest ranger. This year the rutting resulted in a fatality: the red deer called 'De Kroes' was found dead following a fight with a competitor.

September 2016

Visitors to the Park can walk through the Otterlose Forest for the first time this year, with this part of the Park now accessible through pedestrian gates. The cattle grid between the Otterlose Forest and the rest of the Park has not yet been removed, but research into its influence on grazing by red deer is ongoing. Because the Otterlose Forest has never been grazed by these animals before, it's possible it can serve as a 'zero measurement' for research into forest regeneration and feeding damage caused by large grazers. The cattle grid will be removed in 2017. Many more research projects into biodiversity, nature, and landscape are also ongoing, including student projects into the occurrence of the rare *Carabus nitens* ground beetle, and volunteers investigating the wart-biter, a species in the grasshopper family.

Elsewhere in the Park, research is also being done into the use of wild passages with neighbouring terrain, into the effects of 'rock dust' used to remineralize soil, into the densification of open land, and into the breeding success of black grouse which have recently increased in numbers.

October 2016

In this month, the Park's directors signed a covenant with care organization, Pluryn, at a special celebration, with both organizations expressing their desire to work together. The agreement includes arrangements about work experience for Pluryn residents and clients in the Park. People from Pluryn have previously worked in the Theekoepel at Jachthuis Sint Hubertus in 2015. Residents from the care group are also refurbishing retired rental bikes this year, and making picnic tables from our wood. The twelfth edition of De Hoge Veluwe Run is again a great success with over three thousand participants. Various distances can again be run this year, including a 'trail run' on dirt tracks and rough terrain. The running event is part of the Activity Weekend at De Hoge Veluwe, where there is a large Activity Fair and opportunities to take part in walks too. The event is now well-known across the country and is made possible by the efforts of lots of volunteers from the Park and other organizations.

November 2016

De Hoge Veluwe National Park wins the 'Goed voor Elkaar' (Good for Each Other) prize awarded by the Groen & Handicap knowledge centre for its three walking routes which are particularly suitable for people with physical disabilities. These are the Experience Path, the Landscape Path, and the Berlage Path. The first path was

designed in collaboration with the Revalidatiefonds (Rehabilitation Fund) and the Fonds Verstandelijk Gehandicapt (Dutch Fund for the Mentally Disabled). Walkers are invited to enjoy the landscape with more of their senses than sight alone. The two other routes - around the Pampelse Berg hill and at Jachthuis Sint Hubertus - have also been created with wheelchairs and children's prams in mind.

The possibility of cutting down your own free Christmas tree in the Park also starts this month. This is becoming an annual event for more and more households, and the removal of the pine trees fits in with the Park's nature management policy, as it helps to keep open land clear.

December 2016

The total number of paying visitors in 2016 is 547,294, a fraction under the 578,667 visitors in 2015. In 2015, the main attractions were the Park's 80th anniversary celebrations and a Van Gogh exhibition in the Kröller-Müller Museum. 2016 did not have any major public attractions, and the number of visitors still exceeded the estimate of 530,000. 16,107 Beschermerskaarten (annual Guardian Passes) are sold, a significantly higher number than the 15,477 sold in 2015.

317,957 visitors came to the Visitors Centre in 2016, with 174,044 continuing on to the Museonder museum. Jachthuis Sint Hubertus was visited 25,752 times.



Fred de Graaf
Chairman of the
Supervisory Board

How do you make sure phones stay in pockets?

2016 was his first year as chairman of the Supervisory Board, a year that usually goes hand in hand with detailed familiarization with the organization. But this wasn't necessary in Fred de Graaf's case. He's been involved with the Park in a managerial capacity since the end of last century. As Mayor of Apeldoorn, he was also a member of the Advisory Board before becoming chairman. On 1 January 2016 he succeeded Frank Schreve as chairman of the Supervisory Board.

Modernizations

'2016 was a relatively calm and reasonably normal year for De Hoge Veluwe National Park,' he explains. 'Visitor numbers are stable and came out slightly higher than forecast, even though there weren't really any big events on the Kröller-Müller Museum programme in 2016. This gives us confidence that we can attract sufficient numbers of visitors under our own steam. 600,000 paying visitors per year must be achievable, which will require some modernization, but we've worked hard on this in 2016.'

Landhuis Building

Fred de Graaf names two aspects that were prioritized in 2016. 'The financing of the new Landhuis building in the

Central Area, and developing plans for dealing with

the Park entrances. The financing of the new Landhuis – a multifunctional building in the centre of the Park which will host the Visitors Centre and the Park Restaurant - is as good as complete now. We set up our own Hoge Veluwe Fund to raise money, and that's gone very well. It now looks like the first building works will be able to start in 2018. It's a big job that costs lots of money, and a substantial part of this has been raised by generous donors, including many private individuals, who I would very much like to thank!

Entrances and Museonder

'But we can't rest on our laurels,' says De Graaf. 'Modifications to the Park entrances are next on the list, because we're having problems with high volumes of traffic on busy days, and the

small gatekeeper buildings are ready for refurbishment too. We're also working on an 'upgrade' to the Museonder museum, which should increase our appeal for daytime recreation. So you can see we have plenty to be getting on with!

Young people and education

De Graaf highlights the Park's appeal for young people. 'It's very important for us. It's a platitude but it's true: if you have the young people, you have the future. When you're directly dependent on visitor numbers for your day-to-day operations like we are, you need to make sure you can keep attracting these visitors in the future. And you do that by interesting young people in nature, in the Park, and in the activities we organize. We're making a lot of extra efforts here with a series of activities specially aimed at young people. It's important to really reach out to children. Young people - especially in this age of phones and computer screens - can be easily distracted, so our activities need to be interesting enough to keep mobile phones in pockets!'

'If it works, you'll see the children coming back for more,' continues De Graaf, 'which is very satisfying. Children enjoy coming to the Park, taking part in an activity, and then coming back for more activities. And that's good for the Park, too, because the children of today are the parents of tomorrow.'





Marieke Ankoné
Education Coordinator De Hoge
Veluwe

Learned something new again!

De Hoge Veluwe National Park organizes lots of different activities for young and old. Fun, exciting, engaging activities, always with an educational element. And that's no coincidence: the Park attaches great value to education. This is underlined by Marieke Ankoné, Education Coordinator for the Park.

From 0 to 100

She emphasizes it a couple of times. 'Education' isn't just for children,' says Marieke Ankoné. 'It's for all ages, from 0 to 100, I always say. People's main reason for coming to the Park is often simply to enjoy themselves, to have a good day, to cycle, to walk. And what I also hope for, and what we're trying to achieve, is that they take away and remember stories from their time at De Hoge Veluwe. From the creation of the landscape, the animals and plants you see, images of the Park, or from the Kröller-Müllers dream. It's these stories that make a visit to the Park even more interesting. That's why we make sure all our activities include elements of this story, so all visitors, young and old, learn something new during their visit.'

Combined with learning goals

Many of her efforts around education are nevertheless aimed at schools and children of primary school age, as Ankoné explains. 'The Park is a much-loved destination for schools, partly because

primary school pupils don't need to pay any entrance fee. A day out with the whole class in the Park can be mainly about fun, for example on a school camp, but we always try to combine it with an educational goal. Primary and secondary school pupils also come to the Park for specific learning purposes, and go out into the field with a nature guide for the 'square metre lesson': a practical biology lesson where students learn how to identify the species of plants and animals they find in a single square metre. This is just one example. We also facilitate learning goals in the field of heritage education, with preliminary lessons, feedback classes, and a tour around Jachthuis Sint Hubertus. Whether it's for history, biology, geography, or visual arts, a visit to the Park can really benefit schools.'

Nature and culture

The Park is always looking for the right combination of nature and landscape with art and architecture in its education. Marieke



Ankoné explains, ‘Finding the right balance is very important. This also applies for the Kröller-Müller vision; that contact with nature enhances the experience of art and culture. It’s a very special offering that we have, with heritage and cultural education on one hand, and education about nature on the other. This combination is extremely valuable. It’s what makes the Park unique. People come for one aspect, but always leave with part of the other too.’

You can experience vast expanses of drift sand here, and learn how this landscape came into being while also finding out how we manage it to keep it in good condition.’

Speed dating

Ankoné’s work consists mainly of planning and organizing, not leading her own tours. She laughs, ‘That’s the coordinator’s fate, isn’t it? I consult with the Park’s nature guides, for example, and with schools, but also with organizations in the surrounding communities. It’s really important for us to stay in touch with the ‘cultural brokers’ who visit the schools. These intermediaries need to be kept well-informed of the possibilities and activities on offer at the Park. So a lot of my work is aimed at this. It would be a great shame if you didn’t know about the Park or what you can do here. We also work closely together with the Kröller-Müller Museum for this. There was a collective ‘speed dating’ day for around 60 teachers from Ede to come and get to know the Park at the end of 2016. They started with ‘philosophizing with paintings’ in the museum, before going on a lightning tour through the Jachthuis.’

Active and challenging

It’s great to hear the reactions from the teachers afterwards, as Marieke Ankoné explains. ‘You hear things like “I thought the Jachthuis wouldn’t be very interesting for my students, that it would be too boring, too serious, you’re not allowed to touch anything”. But our guides show them how they ‘dress things up’ for students on the tour. They can take away a basket full of interesting bits and pieces that they are allowed to touch and investigate, for example. We ask children to use their imagination: “What would your dream home look like?” Efforts like this make a historical place like the Jachthuis fun for children by bringing it to life and creating challenges. “It’s really great for children!” said one teacher after the speed date. That means they’re sure to come back with their class!’



**Marieke van
Doorn**

Owner Doornroos Imagineers

Into nature with an iPad

The first Nature Game was launched during a special celebration at the Visitors Centre in May 2016. The game is called ‘Het Mysterie van het Nooit Gebouwde Museum’ (The Mystery of the Museum that was Never Built), and you play it on an iPad that you can hire from the Visitors Centre. The Nature Game is an initiative by Marieke van Doorn from Doornroos Imagineers, who previously created PandaVision for Efteling theme park.

Storytelling

She developed PandaVision together with the World Wide Fund for Nature. The attraction’s message is packaged into an exciting quest: a really good example of ‘storytelling’. Marieke van Doorn says, ‘PandaVision is proof that experiencing and being educated about nature at the same time can work very well together. Why wouldn’t you be able to do that for other nature organizations too? Nature organizations often have a very select group of visitors, the real fans. But you can reach a much wider group of people with storytelling and principles from the world of gaming. We researched this; I went to speak with people from the open-air museum and had a good look at the railway museum, where they’ve attracted more visitors by combining experiences with gaming.’

Entrepreneurial mentality

This gave Van Doorn the idea for the The Nature Game: the nature reserve as an exciting story with assignments, puzzles, film clips, audio clips, and interactive

tasks along a route dictated by the game. Marieke also met the makers of 'Lost in Time', who had set up a similar digital platform for Dutch cities, and this is how the idea for using it for nature too was born. She took the idea to a number of nature organizations. Van Doorn says, 'De Hoge Veluwe National Park thought it was a good idea straight away. It's really striking when you visit the Park that it has more of an entrepreneurial mentality than some other nature organizations. It's a new and innovative idea that hasn't been done for nature anywhere else like this before. So it requires an entrepreneurial approach. A subsidy from the Province of Gelderland and the Ministry of Economic Affairs for innovations in the creative industries ensured we were able to set the platform up.'

New visitors

The Nature Game has been running for a year now and is a great success. And what's important is that it's attracting new visitors.

Van Doorn says, 'Initial figures show that 75% of the game's players say they came to the Park specially to play the game. I'm very happy about this because it's exactly what we wanted. How can you tempt the iPad generation away from the sofa? With an iPad game, of course! You can play it together with the whole family, so we're targeting families with children who are just too big for the playground but who still go out with their mum and dad. Not 'nature people' necessarily, but more the 'fun seekers'. We tested the game extensively on this target audience. What do they enjoy doing? How far do they like to walk? The game takes about 90 minutes to 2 hours to play, and you cover a distance of 2.1 kilometres. This appeared to be the right distance to play a few games and eat your sandwiches along the way.'

Inspirational storytellers

Marieke van Doorn received the Park's full cooperation. She explains, 'The people at the Park have lots of stories to tell, and there are some very inspirational storytellers. It's funny, you can point to a section of the forest and a gamekeeper will come up with a story that's very different to someone with more of a cultural history background. I've collected all these stories from lots of conversations together in a very thick book. The main idea came from a story from Helene, however, and her dream of having a big museum at the Franse Berg hill. This is how we came up with the name, 'The Mystery of the Museum that was Never Built'. The aim is to add more stories to The Nature Game



from other areas of the country too. Storytelling allows you to give each landscape its own face!

Talking things over

It's an educational game that also has an economic benefit for the Park. Marieke van Doorn says, 'You learn about the area in a playful way, about the history, stories, nature, and animals. The game is like a forest ranger and a cultural education guide rolled into one. Children who play it keep talking about it for weeks afterwards, according to the feedback we've received from schools. It's fun to play. And for the Park, the game represents a modern means of communication that can appeal to new target groups.'



Leontien Krul

Operational Management Policy Officer De Hoge Veluwe.

Students in the field

Attention for education doesn't just mean organizing learning activities for children; it also means facilitating research. Students from senior secondary vocational education and higher professional education schools and universities perform lots of research in De Hoge Veluwe National Park. One of Policy Officer Leontien Krul's tasks is to supervise these students.

Knowledge match

It's really amazing how much research take place within the boundaries of the Park every year, with projects including research into the breeding success of great tits, and the occurrence of a certain species of ground beetle in a particular type of habitat. Lots of these projects are financed by specific grants or the institution carrying out the research. De Hoge Veluwe National Park has a clear guideline for assessing research projects, as Leontien Krul explains. 'Research projects need to fit in with the knowledge that we as the Park need. Like any organization, we have a standard social responsibility when it comes to offering work experience places to young people, such as the apprenticeships with the Park's green guides, for example. And we're happy to support other, more specific research if it fits in with the Park's policy and management, too.'

Forest development research

A good example of this is the long-term research being done into the effects of wildlife on forest development in the Park. Krul explains, 'In 2013 wildlife crossings were created particularly for deer, roe deer, and boars which were opened in 2014. This was on the request of the Province of Gelderland to combat the fragmentation of natural areas, and make more wildlife migration possible. But wildlife can also cause lots of damage to young trees, and so have big effect on the development of the forest. Wageningen University & Research is therefore researching this for us, with students coming to look at 70 'plots' in the forest, so we can precisely see what damage is caused to young trees by animals feeding and scratching themselves. This also teaches students how to do field research, and interpret and present the real information they find. And we're happy with the findings which helps us to adapt our nature policy and management accordingly. It's our intention to create more deciduous

forest on the land, and we can use this information to properly assess if we're succeeding, and what we need to do to make more progress.'

Bibs on and into the field

Leontien Krul's work has a very practical side. 'I welcome the students and tell them about the Park and its history. Sometimes they're quite big groups. We get about 125 first-year students from Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences every year, who follow a module about 'De Hoge Veluwe' as part of their course, and then learn how to

do research in practice. In 2016 they focussed on research into the cultural history elements of the landscape. They're given a Guardian Pass and can go in to the field with their special bibs on. This bib

is needed so we know they're researchers and not just visitors. We try to send students out in pairs for safety. Sometimes it's useful for us to combine different teams, e.g. a

university student with a student from higher professional or senior secondary vocational education - the latter is often much better at identifying different species.

There's combined research sometimes too, which is set up and evaluated by a university student, with students from higher professional education or senior secondary vocational education students collecting the data.'

'Rock dusting'

Lots of the research done in De Hoge Veluwe National Park is closely monitored by other organizations outside the Park. The ongoing research into the reintroduction of the black grouse is a good example of this,

as is research into the spreading of rock dust. Krul explains, 'We started this project in 2016. Adding rock dust - a finely crushed stone product- to soil makes it fertile again when minerals have been lost by erosion, leaching, and/or over-farming. The aim is to structurally improve the natural quality by remineralizing the soil. This gives certain special - vulnerable - species a better chance of survival, not just the more general species that you mainly see in the field now. So a whole chain of plant and animal life can benefit from this. But before you do it on a large scale, you want to know if it's going to work. So we're researching this together with Stichting Bargerveen, B-WARE Research Centre, BodemBergsma, and Natuurbalans. We looked at the effects of 'rock dusting' on a few 15 x 15 metre plots in 2015. Then, in 2016, we added rock dust to fifteen separate hectare plots. If results are good we'll be adding rock dust to around 200 hectares in total. We're pioneering this method of soil improvement, so lots of other land managers are very interested in this project. It's partly financed by money from the Province, and we're publishing the results and communicating with the public about it. We're also planning to organize a symposium on the topic. It's a good example of the importance of research: it helps us shape policy by structurally restoring the system to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and other land managers can learn from our experiences, too.'



**Freek
Rensen**

Lecturer Forest and Nature
Management Van Hall
Larenstein University of Applied
Sciences

Very happy with the collaboration

The world of forest and nature management isn't very big in the Netherlands, so it's no surprise that there are links between educational establishments like Van Hall Larenstein and De Hoge Veluwe National Park. The Park has always been a place for work experience and final year projects for the University's students, and this collaboration has intensified over the last few years.

Project area

Freek Rensen, lecturer in Forest and Nature Management at Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, explains. 'De Hoge Veluwe has become a project area for our first-year students now too.

Over 100 students follow a module on 'De Hoge Veluwe', which covers many of the relevant issues, as part of their introductory course every year. Lots of different aspects come together for the students in the Park, such as natural habitats and forest and wildlife management, so they can learn about management techniques, what techniques you can use for which types of land, and other things you need to consider. You can see this in practice at De Hoge Veluwe.'

Practical benefits

'But it's not just that', continues Rensen, 'The Park also has to contend with lots of visitors; they've got an economic model that earns money, and then you've got the cultural history too, so there are lots of different research and management aspects. De Hoge Veluwe is a fantastic

area to put theory into practice, and there are some very practical benefits for us too. The accessibility, for example, and the fact that students can simply take a bike to get out into the grounds. The project area has a clear boundary with a fence around it. The facilities and provisions are very good.'

Research terrain

Lots of students are very enthusiastic but don't know very much yet, as Rensen explains. 'De Hoge Veluwe is primarily an educational area for us, where we learn about different species and the forest. But it's also research terrain, where we teach students how to set up and carry out simple research projects. How do you go about finding something out about wildlife, nature management, visitor management, and cultural influences? Students learn how to come up with and develop their own research questions and appropriate methods. Then they perform their own research in the Park, using all sorts of lessons learned at the university of applied sciences, such as

research techniques or statistics in their own De Hoge Veluwe research project.’

Giving back

Students also join ongoing research projects. Rensen says, ‘This is a good way to learn how to tackle and carry out large, ‘real life’ research projects under the guidance of university students. It’s our way of giving back to the Park. We benefit from being able to use the Park for education and research, and the Park benefits from having over 100 people providing practical help with the collection or processing of research data every year. We can have 20 or 30 students looking at images from the detection cameras near entrances and exits for a day. They’re given an explanation about the research, the how and why, and then we assess and process hundreds and hundreds of photos. It’s a massive amount of data, so our contribution saves months of work. We’ve also helped with cultural history inventories, where students go into the field with a simple GPS app to chart embankments, groups of trees, ditches, coppice groves, and so on. This helps us give something back to the Park.’

Visions of management

Getting to know the Park gives students an insight in the way we manage nature. It’s an approach that’s different to many other

natural habitats. Rensen says, ‘It’s good for our students to learn various management methods. The Park has lots of scope for them to express their vision, but students also get to see other views from within their courses too. I don’t think there’s ‘only one correct’ vision for nature management, so it’s interesting when all the different views come to the fore during the studies.’

Freek Rensen concludes, ‘We as a university of applied sciences are very happy with this collaboration. We get a lot out of it, and I think the Park benefits too. Even if it’s just that the Park is interested in having well-educated people. The people we provide are the ones who will need to actually do the work in the future!’





**Henk
Ruseler**
Forest Ranger De Hoge
Veluwe

Ambassadors for nature

He is perhaps the best-known forest ranger in the Netherlands: Henk Ruseler. Fifteen years ago he came up with the idea for the ‘children’s safari’, going for an overnight stay in the Park with the forest ranger. The children’s safaris are still a very popular experience for children between the ages of eight and twelve.

Ambassadors for the Veluwe

‘Children are particularly receptive to new impressions in this period of their life’, says Henk Ruseler. ‘They have an experience they’ll never forget. For some of them it’s the first time they spend a night away from home.

If you let them experience something in this stage of their life then it’s a real life lesson. With everything we do on a safari like this, we’re creating ambassadors for nature and for De Hoge Veluwe. It’s a brilliant way of connecting with customers. The whole concept is really very simple. Cycling and walking through nature, looking for wildlife, a camp fire, interesting stories, sleeping in a tent or under a starry sky, having breakfast together. A simple concept with a huge impact. Children are extremely enthusiastic and tell everyone everything about it, which is how I’ve ended up with whole streets and families on safari.’

Don’t stress

‘It’s good to see children from all walks of life taking part’, says Ruseler. ‘It doesn’t make any difference

whether they come from working or middle-class families. You can really notice them growing when they’re on these safaris, which is great to see. All children find it really gripping to listen to an interesting story around a camp fire, for example about Farmer Brons, who regretted selling his land to a wealthy gentleman. He died of a heart attack because he stressed so much about it, and still haunts the Falconer’s Hut where we camp to this day. That’s the point in the story when all the children shout ‘I want my land back! I want my land back!’ in the dark. It doesn’t matter what their background is.’ Henk Ruseler laughs, ‘So I’ve taught them that it’s not good for your body to stress too much. It’s great, isn’t it?’

Empathy

The stories around the camp fire are made up by Ruseler himself. ‘I’m in my fifties now, but I can still really empathize with children, how they see the world, what they find interesting and exciting. This empathy is really important. It’s great being able to work with children; it gives me lots of energy. Just everyday children, with a backpack.

I've also been out with recovering addicts and young people with criminal backgrounds. I always find a way to get on with them, to form a connection and reach out to them with stories about nature. The only phase where you 'lose' children is probably when they're aged between twelve and twenty, when they're more interested in other things. But I'm still looking for ways to involve these groups of young people in the Park too.'

Back garden

Henk Ruseler is good at thinking up ideas for public activities in the Park. He came up with the 'Early Bird Concert', where musicians play outside in nature and respond to birdsong. His love of nature and culture is his driving force. 'I'm really in love with the Park and the Kröller-Müller Museum. I'd like to shout it from the rooftops, we have something so fantastic here in our hands. It's a love that I want to share with lots and lots of people. I think it must be possible, for example, for at least 5% of the residents of Arnhem, Ede, and Apeldoorn to be regular visitors to the Park, which is basically these people's back garden, after all. Wouldn't that be great?'

The first step has already been taken by the hundreds of children who've been on a children's safari. 'I only have them for one night,' says Ruseler, 'but they take away something that lasts a lifetime.'





Dirry Sint Nicolaas
Nature Guide Coordinator

Volunteer guides: highly committed

Imagine your company comes to spend a day at De Hoge Veluwe, and you think it might be nice to learn something about special trees in the Park, or the images in the Park, or the Park in the Second World War. This is when the Park Guides spring into action. These volunteers' efforts are coordinated by Dirry Sint Nicolaas, who also works as a nature guide.

Thorough training

The guides have an important role to play in the Park's educational and young people's activities, as Dirry Sint Nicolaas explains.

'There are 54 of them, and they can only start after thorough training. So we select the volunteers and train them up, which involves one day a week in the Park and one day a month in the classroom, for a year and eight months. The training is very thorough. Some of our volunteers have had to cut back on their working hours in their normal job so they can follow our training and become a guide. You need to know a bit about lots of different subjects, often with very specific knowledge about the Park's history and landscape. It's a prerequisite for guides to be able to speak a bit of English when necessary, and some of them can work fluently in German or French too.'

Current information

A guide can be requested by phone or via the website. Dirry Sint Nicolaas says, 'There are different types of groups, such as



company outings, schools, and large families. Sometimes over a hundred children can all come at once. We have one guide per group of twenty people. Drawing up rotas for all these guides is quite a job! We also start by looking at the group's special interests. Do they want to go looking for wildlife? Walking? Cycling? Then we look to see if there's an existing option to match this theme, or we adjust an existing tour a bit. The guides all receive extra training a few times throughout the year, so their information is always up to date. As coordinator, I meet with the Park's Marketing and Communication department every month. We evaluate how everything's going, and work on new areas of interest and knowledge. We recently started Second World War themed tours, for instance, and there's lots to say on this topic in the Park thanks to the proximity of the Deelen airfield. Our guides have done lots of research into it, even visiting archives in The Hague to look things up.'

In the mud

'However well you prepare, though, there's always something unexpected', says Dirry. 'You can be walking through the forest as quiet as a mouse and still see nothing with your group, and after an hour or so you 'll notice that people are losing attention. They can get a bit impatient and start talking, thinking "we're not going to see anything anyway". And then suddenly there'll be a deer calf by the side of the path. And it's suddenly very quiet again. It's so beautiful. And it makes the walk unforgettable. Strange things happen too, sometimes.' Dirry laughs, 'You might find out that part

of a cycle path has turned into a mud bath, for example. So we carefully take our bikes around it, but there's always someone - and it's always a man - who dares to try and ride through it. The last guy got stuck half way across and fell right in, head to toe, bike and everything. You can imagine how hilarious everyone found it!'

Committed

The Park guides are all volunteers and don't receive any wage for their work. So what's their reward? Dirry Sint Nicolaas says, 'Their reward is that they can walk through nature with other people and tell them about their enthusiasm for nature and the Park. We also receive a Service Card with certain privileges, and there's an annual volunteers' day. We hope that everyone who goes on a walk or bike ride sees how beautiful and unique the nature is. All our guides are really committed people, without exception. It's really special, we always have more candidates than we need when there's an opening for a new guide.'



Theo Spek
Professor Landscape History,
member of the Supervisory Board

Research as a driver for education

Students from the University of Groningen often work on scientific research projects in De Hoge Veluwe National Park, for example for their master's in landscape history or another subject that's relevant to the culture in the Veluwe. This research can serve a driver for education and marketing, according to professor Theo Spek.

Field names

He explains, 'One of my students is doing research into 'field names' in De Hoge Veluwe, for example. Informal terms or names for elements in the landscape. Everyone knows the 'Bosje van Staf', which was quite recently named after a former minister. But there are much older names and stories linked to certain places in the landscape, some 200 within the Park alone. So you research old maps and other historical sources, and go and talk to older members of staff and residents, looking for oral history.

The database of field names and stories that this creates is important scientific information, and you can use this knowledge in tourism too. It can make walking routes more interesting for the general public by using it on trips and tours, making scientific research the driver for new landscape stories to be incorporated in education.'

All levels

Spek says that constant modernization is important in the field of education. 'You can't keep repeating the same story. Having something new to say helps keep the Park fresh and appealing. It's a real treasure trove of stories that haven't been told before, and it's up to academics to unearth them. And education or public information doesn't necessarily mean explaining things in very basic terms; you might want to offer a well-educated audience a bit of 'added value', for instance, which can increase your appeal as a Park, and your reputation as a knowledge organization is very important too. I think you have to offer education to suit all levels. For children at primary school, and also for visitors with an academic interest.'

Working as a partnership

Theo Spek is also a member of De Hoge Veluwe National Park's Supervisory Board, which has been busy

working on the modernization of the Central Area in 2016. Spek says, 'One of the building's roles will be to share knowledge between the Park, its visitors, and the worlds of academia and business. The new Museonder museum will also be very important here. Together with our partners, we want to think about a sustainable future for the Park and the Veluwe as a whole, with an explicit emphasis on connecting ourselves with international expertise. We can organize meetings together about sustainable nature and landscape management, water management, innovative research, and corporate social responsibility. You can see the world of politics is already very interested in making the world of business and society as a whole greener. I think that we as the Park can make a really positive contribution here. De Hoge Veluwe has always been a pioneer, and this will continue in the future.'





Jacco Steendam
Nature Detective at Kraakhelder
Productions

‘There’s always one child who gets eaten, of course...’

You might just come across a ‘Nature Detective’ at the Visitor Centre on weekdays during the summer holidays. He lets children (and their parents) have a good look at what they might find in nature while taking part in a fun and entertaining activity. Then, once they’ve earned their ‘Detective Diploma’, he’ll take them into the Sensory Garden.

All your senses

The nature detective is just one of Jacco Steendam’s characters, which he came up with around seven years ago. 2016 was his third time at De Hoge Veluwe National Park. He explains, ‘I start with a table full of things you can find in nature. A lot of these things involve animals that eat each other, which is very exciting for budding sleuths. Find the ‘crime scene’, and then see what you can discover there. What is it? What did it? How did it happen? I ask the children to join in the investigation, and they’re always very enthusiastic. They do assignments and there are fun songs, jokes, and antics, and you can touch and feel everything for yourself. I ask the children to use all their senses. Look, feel, smell, listen carefully.’

Exciting and motivating

The nature detective is very popular. Steendam is in the Park every working day for five weeks in a row. The presentation and search together last for about two hours, with some 15 to 30 children taking part each time. Steendam says, ‘After the presentation and assignments, they’re given a detective diploma and kit with some tape and a magnifying glass. Then we go out into the field, where we can go on a ‘real’ search. It’s very exciting. Because yes, there’s always one child who gets eaten, of course...’ Steendam laughs, and continues, ‘The great thing about De Hoge Veluwe is that there’s so much to find here. Tracks left by deer, wild boar, foxes, badgers. Sometimes we even spot a real deer. It’s great to see how a child responds. It’s very intensive work, but I also get lots of energy from it. The children’s enthusiasm is very motivating. There are

definitely worse jobs!



Nature children

Jacco Steendam is hired by De Hoge Veluwe National Park, so children can take part for free. He explains that in his first year the Park went through all his presentations with him. 'After an evaluation, they gave me a free hand. There isn't too much contact between me and the organization now, which I think is very positive. It's all based on trust. If you outsource something then you don't want to do too much work on it, do you? I also give presentations as the nature detective at other places in the country, in schools for example, so it's easy for me to make comparisons. The people who visit De Hoge Veluwe are generally very motivated. They're often 'nature children' here, children with some kind of collection or lots of experience already. There's one young boy who's coming for his fourth year now. I've promoted him to my assistant, so I can be sure he doesn't reveal too much!'

Serious message

The aim is to give everyone a nice afternoon, as Steendam explains. But that's not all. 'Of course I make lots of jokes and there are a fair few antics, but there's also a serious message. I want to show children how beautiful nature is. I want to teach them how to discover that. I take this part of what I do very seriously. It's great to see that children are really good at knowing the difference between 'funny' and 'serious'. I try to pass on my respect for nature alongside all the fun. And they pick up on this. There's lots to learn, see, and experience in nature. It's good to see children forming this relationship.'



Euphemia Tuhuteru-Laturake
Senior Lecturer Tourism & Event
Management Hospitality, Saxion
University of
Applied Sciences

The Park demonstrates social engagement

The annual ‘Activity Weekend’ that is held in De Hoge Veluwe National Park hosts one of the most popular running events in the Netherlands: the Hoge Veluwe Run. This event has been ‘run’ by students from Saxion University of Applied Sciences in Deventer for a long time. Senior Lecturer Euphemia Tuhuteru-Laturake is the link between the university of applied sciences and the Park.

students, so

Organization and enthusiasm

There’s a lot to consider when organizing such a big event. On the day itself, but also in the run-up, as Euphemia explains. ‘It’s a whole process. A group of six second-year students help with the preparations in an ‘event management’ module as part of their course. They help various committees involved in the event to coordinate registrations, the start/ finish, and the volunteers. They produce plans, help us think about how to make everything look appealing, like the registration desk, for example. They learn the job in a very hands-on way so they have plenty of opportunity to be creative too. A lot of it’s about communication. For example, how are volunteers working on the day itself given the information they need? How do you recruit these people? How do you make them enthusiastic? They’re often fellow

how do you make sure they get out of bed on time on the day? It's not just organizing; it's enthusing too!

Significant contribution

Around 30 first-year students work on the practicalities during the event alongside the group of second-years as part of their course. Euphemia says, 'It involves everything from issuing bib numbers in the registration area to handing out apples to runners. Everything has to run smoothly; we want to put on a flawless event. Our students really experience the Activity Weekend as an event they learn a lot from. The second-years in particular don't just feel like they're 'assisting' the coordinators or steering committees; they feel like they're making a significant contribution to the success of the event. And I think that's right. It's a very valuable learning



experience for the students, and this collaboration makes it possible for the Park to put on this great event.'

Social responsibility

The collaboration between Saxion and De Hoge Veluwe National Park is going very well, according to Euphemia. 'We've been doing this together for a long time, so you really get to know each other. After the event we evaluate how it all went and look to see if we can improve the input from our students anywhere. Of course, things can vary from year to year every time you work with a new group of students, so it has its ups and downs. But if you try to optimize the processes together, everything can go well regardless of the students. There's definitely a certain level of risk that comes with organizing a large event only with volunteers. There's a certain risk factor. So it's commendable that the Park dares to do it. That's the good thing about this collaboration: the Park thinks it has a certain social responsibility as an organization to contribute to students' education. And they take this responsibility, which I think is great. The continued collaboration is very valuable for both of us.'



Thanks

De Hoge Veluwe National Park is an independent nature reserve, which is why it runs with almost no subsidies. Eighty-five percent of its income, mainly generated from entrance fees, is spent on the Park management, maintenance and conservation every year, which leaves just 15% to be invested in its sustainable future. This isn't enough to be able to continue guaranteeing its high quality for future generations, which is why support from private individuals, funds, and companies is very much desired and necessary.

We would therefore very much like to warmly thank the following equity funds and companies for their financial help in 2016:

- Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds
- Dioraphte Foundation
- Elise Mathilde Fonds
- Stichting Dura Charity Foundation
- Pon Holdings B.V.
- Fugro GeoServices B.V.
- H&S Group B.V.

We would also like to thank the Province of Gelderland for its contribution to the management of the landscape (SNL/SKNL), the Ministry of Internal Affairs (State Property and Development Agency) for its contribution to the maintenance of the Jachthuis Sint Hubertus, and the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Science for its contribution to the management of Jachthuis Sint Hubertus.



Figures for 2016

Visitor numbers

De Hoge Veluwe National Park had 547,294 paying visitors in 2016. This is fewer than in 2015, when 578,667 people visited the Park. The number of visitors forecast for 2016 was 530.000. In 2015 it was 525,000. The Kröller-Müller Museum had 279,754 paying visitors in 2016. In 2015 it had 310,602.

16,107 Beschermerskaarten (annual Guardian Passes) were sold for the Park in 2016; 630 more than in 2015 (15,477). The Visitors Centre was visited by 317,957 people (2015: 343,717). Of these, 174,044 (2015: 178,202) continued on to the Museonder museum. Jachthuis Sint Hubertus was visited 25,752 times. In 2015 it had 28,221 visitors. There were 14,553 overnight stays at De Hoge Veluwe natural campsite. In 2015 there were 14,296.

OPERATING ACCOUNT

(amounts x 1,000 euros)

	2016 actual	2017 actual
Income		
Entrance fees	4,990	5,060
Rents and leases	451	434
KMM payment	230	229
Arrangements	49	34
Various income	1,508	1,535
	<u>7,228</u>	<u>7,292</u>
Expenses		
Employee expenses	3,302	3,025
Various direct costs	2,332	2,178
Arrangements	5	5
General costs	387	512
Financial resources	15	25
Depreciations	1,141	1,027
	<u>7,182</u>	<u>6,772</u>
Operating results	46	520
Special income and expenditure	28	411
Result	<u>74</u>	<u>931</u>

BALANCE ON 31 DECEMBER (for results purposes)

(amounts in euros)

	2016	2015
ASSETS		
Fixed assets		
Intangible fixed assets	161,953	215,938
Tangible fixed assets	11,343,006	11,234,360
	<u>11,504,959</u>	<u>11,450,298</u>
Current assets		
Reserves	80,379	115,479
Short-term receivables	1,045,029	1,105,865
Financial resources	633,208	812,412
	<u>1,758,616</u>	<u>2,033,756</u>
Total assets	<u>13,263,575</u>	<u>13,484,054</u>
LIABILITIES		
Equity		
General reserve	6,682,599	6,682,599
Unappropriated result	74,097	931,457
Central Area development destination reserve	931,457	0
Revaluation reserve	2,363,950	2,363,950
	<u>10,052,103</u>	<u>9,978,006</u>
Provisions	882,497	755,464
Long-term liabilities	698,878	718,632
Short-term obligations and Accrued liabilities	1,630,097	2,031,952
Total liabilities	<u>13,263,575</u>	<u>13,484,054</u>

The operating result equals €46,000. After mutation of the special income and expenditure equal to €28,000, the end result is €74,000 positive.

Ernst & Young

Accountants LLP issued an approved statement from the independent accountant. Compared to 2015, the operating result fell by €474,000, from €520,000 positive to €46,000 positive.

This fall is mainly caused by:	(amounts in euros)
• Less money from entry fees because fewer visitors	-70,000
• More income from rentals and leasing through indexing and higher number of hunters	17,000
• More income from arrangements from more income for nature guides	15,000
• Reduction in the various incomes from a fall in income from nature management, Jachthuis Sint Hubertus, and Facilities Foundation, and an increase in income from rental bikes, nature management subsidy, fund-raising, and sponsorship	-27,000
• An increase in personnel costs from an increase from 3 FTE, long-term illness replacement, and payments for transition allowances	-277,000
• An increase in the various direct costs from more costs for Jachthuis Sint Hubertus and direct costs	-154,000
• A fall in general costs. The management costs and representation costs were incidentally higher in 2015 due to the 80-year anniversary. There are also lower costs for advisers	125,000
• An increase in the depreciations from investments made	-114,000
• Other per balance	11,000
Total	-474,000



Appendices

Management Team

S.E. baron van Voorst tot Voorst - *Director*

H. Beukhof - *Head of Staff Services / Deputy Director*

J.R.K. Leidekker - *Head of Operations*

M.M. Kokke MBA - *Head of Visitor Management*

A. Roelofsen - *Head of Hospitality & Retail ad interim*

Supervisory Board

G.J. de Graaf - *Chairman*

A.M. Fentener van Vlissingen - *Vice-Chairman*

P. van Oord

H.Th.E.M. Rottinghuis

Prof Th. Spek

General (retired) P.J.M. van Uhm

Advisory Board

C.M. Jaski - *Chairman*

J.C.G.M. Berends MPA - *Mayor of Apeldoorn*

F.J. van Bruggen - *Managing Director ANWB*

H.J.E. Bruins Slot - *Chairman Supervisory Board Geldersch
Landscape & Castles*

M.R.P.M. Camps - *Secretary-General Ministry of Economic
Affairs*

C.G. Cornielje - *King's Commissioner for the Province of
Gelderland*

O.O. Gorter - *Chairman Association of Equal Rights for Landowners*

A.P.J.M. van Hooff - *Director Royal Burgers' Zoo*

Dr P.H.A.M. Huijts - *Secretary-General Ministry of General Affairs*

H.J. Kaiser - *Mayor of Arnhem*

Dr C. van der Knaap - *Mayor of Ede*

Prof M.J.J.A.A. Korthals - *Emeritus Professor Applied Philosophy*

Mr C. Krijger - *Chairman Friends of De Hoge Veluwe Association*

W.J. Kuijken - *Delta Commissioner*

Z.H. Prins Floris van Oranje-Nassau - *Member of Het Loo Palace Board of Directors*

S.A. Reinink - *Director of The Royal Concertgebouw NV*

R.C. Robbertsen - *Chairman Federation of Private Land Ownership*

H.E.M. Vrolijk - *Lawyer*

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Prof G.J. Borger - *chairman and Emeritus Professor, Department of Geography, Urban Planning and International Development Studies UVA (University of Amsterdam)*

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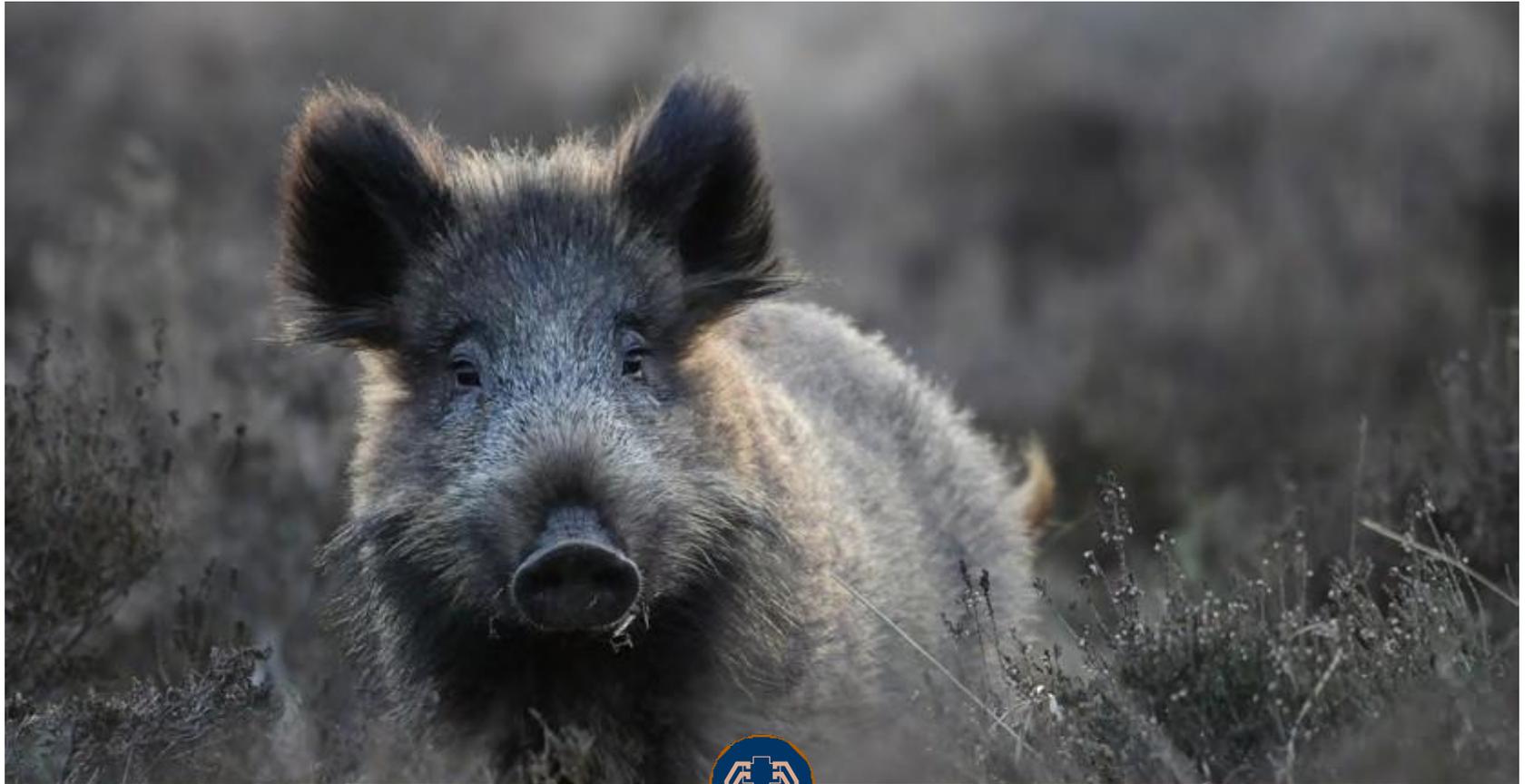
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