



# Ecoducts: effective for connectivity!

Country: The Netherlands

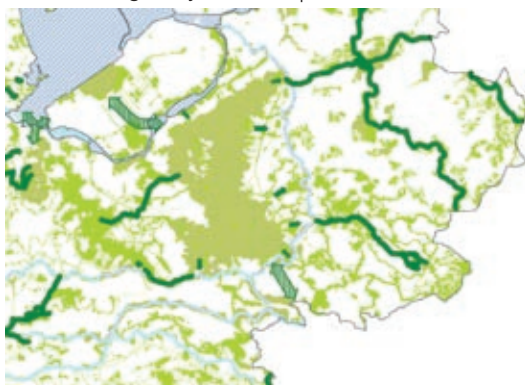


## Necessity for connectivity

Fragmentation of the densely populated Netherlands is the main cause of decline in flora and fauna in the environment. House, corporate, and industrial construction, highways, railways, rivers and canals are all causes for the isolation of natural habitats. As a result, there is no interaction between the areas which has detrimental effects on the vitality of the natural population. The development of the Ecological Network is being worked on a national scale with emphasis on core areas, natural development areas, and connection zones...a network of nature preservation. Ecoducts are instrumental links in bridging this large infrastructure.

## Ecoducts are effective

At the end of the nineteen eighties the first two Dutch ecoducts were constructed across the A50, a highway cutting straight through the largest nature area in the Netherlands. These ecoducts have re-connected two forests with heather fields uniting many different species of deer, wild boar, and other types of small animals. Ecoducts have proven to be very effective: within a period of one year four thousand various deer and wild boar crossed the overpass located by



Terlet. Smaller mammals, insects, and reptiles frequently use the wild viaduct as well.

## Continuing connectivity in the Veluwe

In order for the Veluwe to function again as a large wildlife preservation it is necessary that more ecoducts be erected. The construction of more ecoducts is an important project for the Province of Gelderland and is; therefore, a highlighted agenda point for the Veluwe 2010 policy. Also included in this policy is a quality

impulse for nature, landscape, agriculture, recreation, water management, and historical cultivation. As a result of this policy, the government, in cooperation with nature organizations, has made annexation agreements enabling the safe passage of wildlife over highways and railways. This means that more ecoducts will be constructed in the Veluwe. In other areas the metal grates hindering wildlife from crossing from one place to another will be removed and the traffic speed reduced in order that fauna can safely cross an intersection.

Consequently, the Veluwe will once again become an integral part of the ecological network for wildlife in Northwest-Europe and the quality of the environment can be enhanced through the natural exchange of animal populations.

The proposal is being highly regarded among the Department of Agriculture, Nature and Food quality, the Department of Transportation and Water Management and the Province of Gelderland. Natuurmonumenten (Nature Monuments) are also taking part in the organization of this project.

## Contact

Natuurmonumenten,  
W. Goedhart,  
Vosdijk 2, 6824 BB Arnhem,  
026-3523443

Provincie Gelderland,  
A.Vreugdenhil,  
Postbus 9090 6800GX Arnhem,  
026-3599526

