

# EUROPOORT WEST: LAND VAN MEEUW EN MENS



INTERSECTION



ELEVATION

## ENTANGLED WITH THE LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

In advanced capitalist societies, nature has become more dependent on human influence. But some species are living in closer proximity than others. Including the Lesser Black-backed Gull. Throughout the 20th century, human activities have led to changes in the environment of this “synanthropic” species, a species living in close proximity to humans, not only affecting the size of the population but also the place where they settle. In the Netherlands, colonies have already been displaced from the Dutch dunes to large vacant lots on industrial sites in the Dutch Delta and urban environments.

Port owners and municipalities are currently trying to work around the protected status of the species by, amongst others, applying for exemptions. But ultimately, we ourselves are the driving factor, so the solution will also lie in acknowledging agency to these species.

Therefore, this project aimed to design an intervention that contributes to a sustainable life for the Lesser Black-backed Gull in the context of the Dutch Delta, by taking a gulls’ perspective and examining the Lesser Black-backed Gulls’ desires based on our current entanglements.

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The intervention is called “Land van Meeuw en Mens” and should ensure that gulls are taken into account in the world we design while highlighting their acknowledged agency to employees and visitors.

The “Land van Meeuw en Mens” consists first of a spatial transformation of an area where gulls and humans are crossing paths. Secondly, it consists of a design proposal for gull roofs that are currently arising from the popular breeding area but do not yet take into account the loss of habitat for this species. The last proposal includes a breeding object that has been further developed to translate the affordances of their previous nesting site to the roof.

