To make Marker Wadden become reality, Natuurmonumenten focused on both stakeholder management and fund raising. Royal HaskoningDHV was asked to assist and take care of the technical and procedural side of the project. In close cooperation with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, Natuurmonumenten and fund raising. Royal HaskoningDHV was asked to assist and take care of the technical and procedural side of the project.

The realisation of the Houtribdijk isolated the Markermeer from the IJsselmeer and the Wadden Sea. This caused degradation of the ecosystem and a loss of biodiversity in the lake. This led to increasing disappearance of benthos, a lack of vegetation, and Lelystad.

Since 1976, thick yoghurt-like silt has appeared on the bottom of the Markermeer. This layer of mud reduces the soil life. Moreover, the mud layer often conceals lake bottom of once fertile soil. Making the Markermeer an immense bath with turbid water for a large part of the year.

To build the 1st phase of the Marker Wadden, a string of new islands and coastal habitats in the Markermeer. These are located along the east side of the Markermeer. Supported by contributions of the Dutch Postcode Lottery Dream Fund and in proactive cooperation with other stakeholders, 30,000 hectares are designated to water and nature area.

The Markermeer (Lake Marken) is one of the largest fresh water lakes in Europe and is recognized as Natura 2000 area. It was created in 1976 by the construction of the Houtribdijk, a dike connecting Enkhuizen and Lelystad.

The Houtribdijk will be extracted and salvaging mud in a novel way. A project with international planning, both for nature itself and for Dutch hydraulic engineering: Building with nature!